



# TEAM TO TACKLE SEX ABUSE GANGS

Report by Tim Spiers

**DUDLEY Council says it is taking action to stop children being sexually exploited after a police report revealed gangs similar to those in Rotherham operate in the Black Country.**

The heavily-edited findings reveal there are 'significant similarities' between child sex abuse here and the scandal in Yorkshire.

Dudley town centre, Lye and Brierley Hill were highlighted as at-risk areas in the borough. The findings are released in a West Midlands Police report entitled Child Sexual Exploitation, which was produced in October but has only now been made public.

The 125-page report was released by West Midlands Police after a Freedom of Information request. Large sections of information have been redacted – blacked out – including a map showing where there have been 'high concentrations' of incidents in Dudley.

Dudley Council says a new 'shared regional approach' was now making it easier to tackle child sexual exploitation.

## Identify

Tony Oakman, the council's strategic director for people, said: "This is designed to ensure everyone is working in the same way and is able to share necessary information to identify children at risk as well as offenders."

"We're currently establishing a dedicated child sexual exploitation team and also planning a multi-agency safeguarding hub for the borough which will work with our partners in order to identify children at risk as early as possible."

"Through our regional awareness campaign, See Me, Hear Me, we have been increasing people's understanding of child sexual exploitation and how to spot the warning signs."

Between January and June last year, 210 children were identified by councils as having been 'sexually exploited or at risk of sexual exploitation'. The report compares the situation to that in Rotherham, where at least 1,400 youngsters were sexually exploited.

It states: "There are significant similarities to the Rotherham victim/offender and location profiles. It remains difficult for WM Police to quantify how many child abuse crimes or incidents have actually occurred within the West Midlands."

Offenders are said to be typically of Pakistani origin, aged 17 to 40, and most victims are white females aged 13 to 16.

"Targeting of victims takes place mainly at children's homes and schools. Offending typically takes place in private houses or hotels, often under the guise of 'house' parties. Offences also take place in parks."

Other hotspots include Tipton, Smethwick and Rowley Regis.

## MUSEUM TO MARK VE DAY 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Staff at the Black Country Living Museum will be recreating the VE Day celebrations of 1945 at the Tipton Road attraction this Saturday

IT was a momentous occasion and VE Day was celebrated up and down the land on May 8, 1945, as the nation marked Victory in Europe.

Seven decades on, the sights, sounds and celebrations of that day will come to life for the milestone 70th anniversary.

And the Black Country Living Museum is among the attractions bringing the past to life to mark the anniversary.

Staff and volunteers at the Tipton Road museum will be leading celebrations, when the war in Europe ended with victory over

Nazi Germany, with an airing for Winston Churchill's victory Speech and a street party for children at the attraction on Saturday.

Rationing was still in force 70 years ago, and continued for several years afterwards, so visitors will be able to sample such 40s fare as spam fritters from the museum's fish and chip shop.

Abby Bird, of the museum, said: "The museum will celebrate with laughter, dancing and traditional street celebrations."

"Living history will help recreate the atmosphere of the day with visitors able to meet

"Winston Churchill" and listen to his electrifying Victory Speech."

Normal admission fees will apply on the day. Places are limited for the street party.

## Beacon

Other celebrations taking place in the Black Country include the lighting of a beacon on the Rowley Hills on May 8 at 9.32pm, which people will be able to see from miles around.

The next special events at the museum will be at half-term when the museum runs a range of sports activities from May 23 to 31.

## SUPERMARKET

### Hundred oppose pub's demolition

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition against plans for a supermarket on the site of a landmark pub in Dudley.

Aldi has lodged proposals to demolish The King Arthur, beside the Birmingham New Road, to make way for the store.

Supermarket bosses say the new 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.

But a petition has been handed in to Dudley Council by West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge calling for the building to be retained. It also raises concerns about an increase in traffic from the site.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Investment in paths is costing £1.3m

A £1.3 million scheme to improve walking and cycling routes in the Dudley borough will see paths revamped to make them more attractive to shoppers and residents.

Work is under way on overgrown and worn-out footpaths in the Quarry Bank, Saltwells and Merry Hill areas will be re-surfaced and drains renovated as part of the improvements.

It marks the latest cash injection to boost roads in the area thanks to funding from public transport chiefs Centro

## MEETING

### Police to focus on Upper Gornal

RESIDENTS can find out how police are tackling anti-social behaviour in an area of the town at a meeting in Dudley later this month.

The Upper Gornal and Woodsetton police team has been monitoring problems in The Arcade, Pale Street and Rock Street.

A meeting will take place at Upper Gornal Methodist Church in Spills Meadow on Thursday, May 28, from 6.30pm.

Residents will also be updated on what is being done to tackle parking problems in Clarence Street, following complaints about vehicles left blocking the road.

## INSIDE

### MINI MANIA AT HIMLEY HALL



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# Wedding wrecking cheat sent to jail



Jailed — Sarah Cawthorne

A BUSINESSWOMAN who left brides in the lurch by spending more than £30,000 of their money on gambling and a trip to Disney World has been jailed for a year.

Around 100 couples were 'left high and dry' by Sarah Cawthorne and her 'A Little Bit of Bling' business, which had promised glitzy finishing touches to their big day.

Disgruntled women were so annoyed they set up the 'Burned Brides' Facebook page to vent their fury about Cawthorne after they paid for her to prepare their wedding venues.

Cawthorne, of Hickmerelands Lane, Sedgley, was given a 12 month sentence for fraudulent trading at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

It is believed at least 100 brides-to-be throughout the UK were defrauded out of a total of more than £30,000 between July 2012 and September 2013.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting on behalf of Dudley Trading Standards, said they received the first of 'an avalanche of complaints' about A Little Bit of Bling on August 20, 2013.

The complainant had paid upfront for items for her wedding, but despite

assurances from Cawthorne, the items did not arrive. When they turned up two days after the wedding, Cawthorne refused a refund.

Mr Jackson said the council and West Midlands Police 'received complaint, after complaint, after complaint' about A Little Bit of Bling. Cawthorne used the wedding money on a trip to Disney World and to fund online gambling.

Mr Mukhtar Ubhi, defending, said the 32-year-old mother-of-two was of good character but addicted to gambling 'which is no less crippling than an addiction to drugs or alcohol.'

# Warehouse workers in cigarette theft racket

**TWO men who stole more than £30,000 worth of cigarettes from the Black Country warehouse where they worked by stuffing the boxes into their cars have avoided being jailed.**

Aaron Fraser, of Willenhall, and Kyle Baker from Sedgley, stole the cigarettes from AF Blakemore wholesalers in Willenhall.

But the pair were caught after a stock take revealed large amounts of cigarettes were missing.

Bosses scoured CCTV and saw both men taking the goods on two occasions in December 2013 and January 2014.

The two also texted each other about cigarettes they had in their possession and discussed the best way to sell them on.

Fraser, aged 32, of Birmingham Street, Willenhall, and Baker, aged 24, of Richmond Road, Sedgley, were handed suspended prison sentences at Wolverhampton Crown Court after pleading guilty to conspiring to steal from an employer.

## Suspicion

The court heard on Friday that suspicion fell upon Fraser after bosses learned that stock was missing from the warehouse.

Philip Brunt, prosecuting, said: "He accepted he had taken cigarettes but said it was because he had been threatened."

CCTV footage showed Baker slipping packets of cigarettes in between cardboard which he then pretended to be clearing from the warehouse.

Gurdeep Garcha, defending Baker, said their plan was 'not particularly sophisticated'.

Stephen Cadwaladr, defending Fraser, added: "He showed no guile, he was clocked on CCTV every time."

Fraser admitted taking cigarettes to the value of £27,000, while Baker pleaded guilty to stealing cigarettes worth £5,000 and £6,000.

The court heard it was possible other people had been involved in the plot as around £15,000 worth of missing cigarettes were still unaccounted for.

Fraser was sentenced to 10-months in prison, suspended for two years, while Baker was handed a six-month sentence, also suspended for two years.

## Singers ready to Razzle Dazzle



Compere Doug Parker with members of the Ellenvale Singers who will be performing at the Brierley Hill Civic Hall

FANS of musicals will be in for a treat when songs from some of the world's most well known shows are performed by a singing group.

The Ellenvale Singers will be joined by Luke Millward to perform Songs from the Shows at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Wednesday, May 13.

The performance, which starts at 7.30pm, will feature tunes from hit musicals, including South Pacific, Showboat, Mamma Mia and Chicago.

Ann Price, a committee member with the group, said the event will be raising money for The Crystal Gateway in Dudley, which helps those with dementia, as well as the Stroke Club located in Brierley Hill.

She added: "We do like to support mostly local charities."

The group, which meets at St Andrew's Hall in The Straits, Dudley, has been running for 40 years and has 39 members, including ten of the founding members. Singers

come from Dudley, Kingswinford and Sedgley.

Mrs Price said she hoped to raise £500 from a raffle on the night and any shortfall would be made up from the group's funds.

She added: "We have worked hard for 12 months and we are all excited about it"

The group meets every Wednesday at the hall and has held many concerts in aid of charities.

Doors will open for the concert at 7pm.

# Woolworths staff among losers due to Euro ruling

THOUSANDS of workers made redundant by the closure of Woolworths have lost a long battle for compensation.

A decision by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) means that 3,200 ex-employees of Woolworths will not receive any money. The decision also affects 1,200 former staff at clothing chain Ethel Austin, which went out of business five years ago.

The workers missed out because they were based in Woolworths stores employing fewer than 20 staff, whereas their colleagues in larger sites qualified for compensation.

Their union said they were 'heartbroken' by an ECJ ruling.

Shopworkers' union Usdaw has been fighting for compensation since Woolworths collapsed in 2008.

Under UK law, workers in smaller stores are excluded from an obligation to consult over redundancies and do not qualify for compensation.

Udaw general secretary John Hannett said: "This decision marks the end of the road for our members from Woolworths and Ethel Austin seeking justice and they are heartbroken."

"Our case is morally and logically robust, so today's verdict is a kick in the teeth. It is unfair and makes no sense that workers in stores of less than 20 employees were denied compensation, whereas their colleagues in larger stores did qualify for the award."

"These were mass redundancy situations where one central decision was made to close the whole company down."

# Arson suspected after factory fire

ARSONISTS are suspected to be behind a fire that destroyed part of a factory in Dudley.

The building in Saltwells Road, Primrose Hill, went up in flames at 12.30pm on Friday.

Crews from Dudley and Haden Cross fire stations were called to tackle the blaze, which caused extensive damage to part of the factory, which is currently vacant.

Haden Cross Fire Station watch commander Desmond Lloyd said the fire was 'definitely arson'. He said: "The fire was contained to an internal office block which was three metres by five metres."

"Everything inside was destroyed. The potential for it to get out of control was there but the important thing was we got there quickly."

# Road is closing for work on gas pipes

A ROAD will be shut for 12 days while work to improve gas pipes takes place.

School Lane in Hagley, near Stourbridge, will close from its junction with the A456 Birmingham Road and Hall Meadow. It will be shut from Friday, May 15.

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## GP services in borough avoid extra pressures

MORE than 17,000 extra patients have registered with GPs in and around Sandwell in the past two years. But the number of Dudley-registered patients has dropped.

The figures have been released by the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Across the West Midlands there has been an increase of almost 50,000 patients in two years, at a time when GP surgeries are already under tremendous pressure.

Long waiting times for appointments have been reported across the region.

In the Black Country it is in Sandwell and West Birmingham where the biggest increase has been reported. In April 2013 the area had 538,683 patients registered by a GP. Now that number is 555,864 — a jump of 17,181. However, in Dudley there has been a surprising drop of 150 patients, down to 314,713.

Dr Jas Rathore, GP and clinical lead for Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "Dudley has a stable population with minor variation from year to year."

The Sandwell figure reflects an increase seen across Birmingham, particularly in the south and west of the second city.

Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG spokesman James Turner said: "We have above average birth rate locally, and a higher than average transient population."

Across England numbers have gone up by almost one million.

## Man is rescued from burning car

A MAN was pulled from a burning car following a smash in Dudley.

The car crashed into a ditch near the junction of Smithys Lane and Coopers Bank Road in Pensnett just after 4pm on Sunday.

The driver, a man in his 50s, was dragged from the car by a paramedic as it began to be engulfed by flames. Fire crews then arrived to put out the blaze.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "Shortly after getting the man to the grass verge, the entire car became engulfed in flames. The fire service was quickly on scene to put the fire out."

"The man was treated for a head injury and transported to Russells Hall Hospital for further assessment."

## Quiz and curry night at scout hut

HAGLEY Cricket Club will host a quiz and curry night on Friday, May 15, at Hagley Scout Hut. The bar opens at 7.30pm with the quiz at 8.30pm in the Hall Lane venue. It is £10 per ticket, up to six in a team.

# Gunman jailed for ten years after attack



Gunman — Taniya Beckford

A GUNMAN who opened fire on another man outside a notorious Black Country nightclub has been jailed for 10 years.

The victim, who is in his 30s, was sitting in a car which was sprayed with bullets, but, miraculously was not injured. CCTV cameras at the scene captured the shooting outside Pulse nightclub in Brierley Hill on film and led to Taniya Beckford being caught.

Beckford, 35, of Duchess Road, Ladywood, Birmingham pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court last week

Police carried out a search of Beckford's home and discovered a loaded gun with 15 rounds of ammunition.

The weapon was handed over to experts at the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) and they found that the Hungarian-made FEG pistol had been used in the shooting on January 26, 2014.

Beckford was arrested in November 2014, charged and remanded in custody.

DI Darren Crutchley, from West Midlands Police Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: "The sentence handed down demonstrates how seriously the

courts take gun crime. The victim in this case could have been killed.

"We would like to thank our colleagues at NABIS for their work which assisted our case and proved that the gun found at Beckford's address was the same weapon used in the Pulse shooting.

"Gun crime levels across the West Midlands have fallen over the last decade and we will continue to work hard to keep our communities safe."

Last year Pulse nightclub in Dudley Road had its licence revoked by a Dudley Council after police said it had become a haven for notorious gangs.

# Second rally against Britain First's march

A SECOND rival protest has been announced to counter a demonstration in Dudley by far-right group Britain First.

The Unity Rally will join a group of war veterans under the name of 'I'm a UK veteran and not a racist, and proud of it' in the town on Saturday.

They are countering the planned demonstration being held by Britain First, who say more than 2,000 of their members will protest at plans for a new mosque in the town.

It will take place just three months after the town was brought to a standstill by similar protests from members of the English Defence League.

Police have held talks this week with Dudley Central Mosque and Dudley Muslim Association regarding safety on the day.

Organisers of the counter-demonstration said they must stand to protest to show solidarity with the town's Muslim community.

Spokesman for the Unity Rally, Jerry Langford, said the group would work with police to ensure it was a peaceful protest.

The group, which held a similar counter protest in opposition to the EDL march, will hold their event in Castle Street from 11am to 3pm.

### Disruption

Mr Langford said: "Dudley Unite Against Fascism, supported by Dudley Trades Union Council, have called a Unity Festival in Dudley on Saturday to stand in solidarity with Dudley's Muslim community who they are directly attacking, and send a message that Dudley stands united."

Dudley Central Mosque and Dudley Muslim Association spokesman Amjid Raza said the Muslim community had held positive talks with Chief Inspector Phil Dolby.

Mr Raza said: "We raised our concerns about these sort of protests. We respect people's right to protest but not if it affects other people's right to free movement."

"There is not many details over the specifics of what will happen on the day. We want reassurance of how the police are going to ensure the safety of shops and passers-by."

Traders have already voiced concerns about the impact on businesses on Saturday.

Britain First claim on the group's Facebook page that 2,100 people have pledged to attend and will meet at 1pm on the Flood Street car park.

## Onesie walkers help wildlife



Zoo director Derek Grove (centre) and Esther Conway from 21st Century Tiger with onesie walkers

THERE was only one way to raise money for two conservation charities when walkers in colourful outfits descended on Dudley Zoo for a 5km trek.

The fundraisers dressed in animal onesies for the annual Dudley Zoo charity event to raise money for the zoo's conservation projects and 21st Century Tiger, a charity supporting tigers in the wild.

Zoo spokesman Jane Thomas estimated that between 200 and

250 people took part in the event on Saturday with a variety of age groups taking the chance to see the zoo's exotic animals.

Conservation projects being undertaken by the zoo include the Humboldt penguin, which is listed as vulnerable to extinction by the World Conservation Union.

Also the Asiatic lion, which used to roam from southern Europe to Japan, but is now found only in an Indian forest.

Mrs Thomas said she did not know how much was raised as sponsorship money was still coming in.

She added: "It should be thousands, but we don't know exactly how much yet. It takes a couple of months for people to come back to us."

"It was a great event and there were hundreds of people in fancy dress and in their onesies walking round the zoo."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Education centre gets green light

PLANS for a new £1.6 million education centre for young people with learning difficulties have been approved.

The new centre will be built on the site of the old Pensnett High School in Dudley.

Work will get under way later this year after councillors gave the scheme the go-ahead.

A £1m grant has been secured to help fund the project, which includes demolishing former buildings on the site, including the main school building, which fronts Tiled House Lane.

### Maypole dancers greet new citizens

SCHOOLCHILDREN were dancing around the maypole to welcome 18 new citizens to Dudley.

A special citizenship ceremony took place at Priory Hall. Pupils from St Chad's Catholic Primary and Cotwall End Primary Schools in Sedgley were invited to dance around the maypole as the new citizens arrived. The new citizens, including people from Columbia, Gambia and Thailand, were asked to swear or affirm an oath of allegiance to the Queen and pledge loyalty to the United Kingdom, and presented with a certificate of British citizenship.

### Second World War grenade in garden

AN army bomb disposal team was called to deal with an unexploded Second World War hand grenade discovered in a garden in Rowley Regis.

The incident happened in Newhall Road on Wednesday after Alan Greasley, 53, and Mark Billingham, 21, were digging in the garden and discovered the device buried around 2ft down.

A cordon was set up around the house while soldiers took the military grenade to a nearby quarry where a controlled explosion was carried out.

### Trust's mental health app proving a success

A PHONE app originating in Dudley that offers health advice has been downloaded 4,000 times.

WellMind, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust's first mobile app, offers tips on mental health. Launched on World Mental Health Day in October, download figures continue to grow with the app being downloaded by 20 people a day on average. Trust chief executive Gary Graham said: "We are really pleased that people like WellMind."

### Ibsen play is staged

OLDBURY Rep presents its latest production, Henrik Ibsen's classic play A Doll's House, from Saturday.

It is being staged at the theatre in Spring Walk, Langley, May 9 to 16. Tickets are £8 and £10 from the box office on 0121 552 2761. For more information visit [www.oldburyrep.org](http://www.oldburyrep.org)

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



"IT'S hot and upbeat, like the jauntiest level of Hell." Australian comedian Deborah Francis-White on Radio 4, explaining her reluctance to return to her native Oz.

RESEARCHERS in Germany are investigating a link between gum disease and dementia. No surprises there, then. Oral hygiene, or the lack of it, has already been linked to diabetes, stroke and heart disease. The surprise is that, whatever the mouthwash companies may tell you, there is still no remedy for advanced gum disease. History will probably judge how many billions of dollars chucked at research into diabetes, stroke, heart disease and dementia would have been much better spent finding a cure for bleeding gums.

A NEW survey reveals that SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has the highest approval rating of any UK politician. The lesson of history is that the most dangerous politicians are the popular ones. The healthiest reaction to anyone wearing a rosette is not a warm glow but a healthy, chilly dose of suspicion.

IF there's one thing more misleading than opinion polls, it's election posters. A friend tells me his town is bedecked in Labour red with hardly a Tory banner in sight. The strange part is that the town consistently returns a Conservative MP.

AND now the computer takes over from telly. All six episodes of the new Peter Kay comedy series Car Share were available on



iPlayer before being screened on BBC1. It is clever, lovely, life-affirming stuff, as you would expect from a national treasure like Kay, and the casting of unknown Sian Gibson as the shop worker sharing Kay's car, and morphing from plain lass to rock chick as she fantasises about being a pop star, is perfect. I loved the misheard confusion over who had been assassinated. Was it JFK or Geoff Capes?

NEVER let the facts get in the way of a good headline such as: "Could wolf-whistling be a crime?" The truth is that Poppy Smart's distress at a building site in Worcester had nothing to do with mere wolf-whistling. It was about the 23-year-old being repeatedly confronted and embarrassed in the street by builders who thought they were God's gift to women. The police have had a few quiet words with them, which is precisely what the police should do in a situation like this. And it's exactly what these leering navvies would demand if it were their wives, girlfriends or sisters suffering the same intimidation. The defence "It's just banter, innit?" doesn't apply when it's your own loved ones.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Nightclub allowed to open until 6am

A NIGHTCLUB in Stourbridge has been allowed to extend its opening hours to 6am despite objections from police, neighbours and councillors. The Stourbridge Academy, in Hagley Road, will now be able to stay open later on certain nights.

It comes after licensing bosses decided the venue was run well enough that it wouldn't pose a risk to its cumulative impact policy.

Prior to the decision being made, Dudley Council had received objections from West Midlands Police, local residents and councillors concerned that extending the hours could lead to trouble. The club currently stays open until 4am on certain nights. A licensing sub-committee chaired by Councillor Jackie Cowell last week approved the hours with restrictions

imposed that last entry would be at 3am. Police would be given 14 days notice before any event expected to go on until the new cut-off time. On behalf of the management, barrister Sarah Clover, said: "These new hours simply provide flexibility for the management to be able to run events until later, it is not something they will be doing seven days a week."

During the meeting, West Midlands Police licensing officer Amanda Baldwin said that since 2014 the Stourbridge Academy appeared on 35 police logs, but the majority of these incidents were either false alarms or not directly related to the venue. Councillor Nic Barlow had originally opposed the plans but after the meeting said he felt 'reassured' that the times would not be a problem.

# Hospital parking crisis led to a thousand fines

By Andrew Turton

**MORE than 1,100 parking tickets have been handed out to motorists parking illegally on roads near Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.**

Roads around the hospital are regularly clogged with cars as people struggle to find a parking space at the car park, prompting complaints from residents living near the site.

It is hoped this will reduce the number of people parking on nearby streets. Figures released by Dudley Council show 1,183 tickets have been issued since July 2012.

The vast majority — 1,167 — were given to people caught parking illegally in Pensnett High Street. Fourteen were issued in Byron Street and one each in Milton Close, Abbotsford Drive and Tennyson Street.

Drivers have received fines of either £50 or £70, generating up to £82,810 for Dudley Council. If the penalty notices are paid within 14 days then the lower sum is paid.

## Ease

To help ease the problem hospital chiefs are creating 200 extra staff spaces. Councillor Judy Foster, whose ward includes Pensnett High Street, said she had received assurances that more frequent traffic warden patrols would be brought in along the problem street.

"It's been an ongoing problem. The road is congested at the best of times," Councillor Foster said. "The double yellow lines were introduced back in 2012 but people still breach them. People have been thinking they were going to get away with it."

"We definitely need to have more robust and more frequent enforcement, which we've been told is happening. The extra parking at the hospital should help, depending if staff have to pay to use it."

A trial of a residents' parking permit scheme was ditched because residents were concerned at the £100 cost of a permit. A recent Care Quality Commission report said car parking problems were causing 'much stress' for hospital patients.

## Ten years of walking with lemurs



Keeper Zoe Taylor and senior keeper Simon Moore celebrate 10 years of Lemur Wood

DUDLEY Zoo is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its first walk-through exhibit Lemur Wood.

The one-acre paddock, where visitors come face-to-face with free-roaming lemurs, opened to the public in April 2005. A decade on, it is still the most popular exhibit at the zoo. The facility is home to 18 lemurs that can climb, run and jump around visitors.

Since Lemur Wood opened, zoo staff have gone on to develop three more impressive walk-through exhibits — Monkey Tails, Wallaby Walkthrough and Penguin Bay.

Zoo director Derek Grove, who led the team which designed and built the innovative attraction, said: "Lemur Wood gives our visitors a unique close encounter with many endangered species."

"During its construction we had to take a lot of height off some of the mature trees and over the years these have spread out to create a wonderfully natural exhibit which works for both the visitors and the lemurs. This very successful design has remained our most popular exhibit and we're incredibly proud of what we've achieved. It has to be one of the best in the country."

As well as using existing trees and undergrowth, more than 100 trees and 300 shrubs were planted in 2005. At the time Lemur Wood cost £38,000 and included a donation from Wednesbury-based firm Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd.

Lemur Wood is home to nine ring-tailed, four black and white ruffed, two black and three collared lemurs.

# Getting out and active in beauty spots of borough

ALL the family can enjoy the great outdoors with a series of walks and activities across Dudley this month.

There will be an easy access trail for wheelchair users and their friends and family at Himley Hall on May 16. Participants will have the chance to find out about the hall and park's fascinating history. Places need to be booked in advance on (01384) 817817.

On May 21 there will be a bee walk at Fens Pool where people will learn more about bee conservation. Walkers will meet at 10am on Chapel Street car park and are asked to book by calling (01384) 82780.

There will be a wildlife fun session at Mary Stevens Park on May 26 from 11am to 12.30pm. Children will be invited to create a butterfly banquet and a donation of £2 per child is requested.

On May 28, there will be a two-hour led walk around Huntington and Romsley. Walkers are asked to meet at the Huntington Park activity centre at 9.45am for a 10am start.

There are taster rowing sessions at the Dudley Watersports Centre in Netherton every Sunday from 1pm to 4pm and Tuesdays 6pm to 7.30pm.

Deborah Harkins, chief officer for health and wellbeing at Dudley Council, said: "In Dudley we are fortunate to have so many beautiful parks and nature reserves, which often look at their best in May, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of them by getting active outside."

For more information visit [www.lets-get.com](http://www.lets-get.com)

## Talk on impact of the Black Death

A DISEASE that killed millions across the world, the Black Death, will be the subject of a history talk on Wednesday, May 13.

Kevin Goodman will be speaking at the meeting of Amblecote History Society, highlighting the impact of the Black Death around the West Midlands in the 14th century. He will also reveal why the spectre of this pandemic still haunts us today.

The meeting will be held in The Lehr Theatre at The Ruskin Glasshouse Arts Centre from 7.30pm.

Visitors are welcome to attend and there is a £2 admission fee on the door.

The society meets on every second Wednesday of the month. For details visit the [www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk) website.

## Veltz offer early bird season ticket deal

HALESOWEN Town has slashed adult season ticket prices in a bid to lure disgruntled Albion supporters hit by a £50 season ticket hike. The Veltz, who play in the Northern Premier, are offering a price of £150, down from £190, until May 17.

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# Volunteers to boost first aid in community

ST John Ambulance volunteers in the Black Country are donating their time and money to help build a first aid network.

Volunteers from the first aid charity's Sedgley unit hosted a quiz and casino night with a raffle raising more than £250 to put towards teaching people first aid.

The funds will buy resources so the unit can subsidise free first aid courses for more than 40 people.

Alongside the outreach courses, volunteer trainers at the unit will also be donating their time to run three sessions for the Sedgley community.

The three-hour Community Essential First Aid courses will cost £30 and the money will go towards local St John Ambulance charitable projects, such as training youth groups.

Courses will be held at the St John Ambulance Sedgley headquarters in Tipton Street on June 5 from 6.30 to 9.30pm, on September 12 10am-1pm and on November 28 from 10am.

Emma Elgerton, community training co-ordinator for St John Ambulance in the West Midlands, said: "Volunteers at our Sedgley unit are really community focused. It's great to see that the money they are raising is being put towards initiatives that benefit the wider community."

"First aid skills are skills for life and you never know when you might need them — it could be at home, at work or just out and about."

To book a place call 0121 237 3879 or email west-mids-training@sja.org.uk

# Cash allocated for jam buster scheme

AROUND £500,000 in funding has been signed off by council bosses towards a major congestion busting scheme in Dudley.

Plans for a dual carriageway to be built along Pensnett High Street will cost around £6.3 million.

Motorists often face delays along the stretch of road passing Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Dudley Council is allocating £500,000 towards the scheme from its Local Transport Plan budget. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, who oversees transport projects in the borough, confirmed: "The money has been set aside for the Pensnett scheme."

The majority of funding is coming from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

# Take to tablets at library session

A FREE workshop to help people master iPads and other tablet devices is being held at Dudley Library.

The workshop in St James's Road on June 5 will run from 10am to noon. Book on (01384) 815566 or 818162.

# Council staff face move in park row

TWO hundred council staff may get the boot from Mary Stevens Park due to constant complaints that they clog up all the parking spaces.

Bosses are now looking at other venues following claims that families and other park-users can't find a parking space

Since 200 Dudley Council children's services staff were transferred to a park building last year, campaigners have complained council workers are taking up all the parking spaces at the site.

There are claims that some of the cars have been vandalised in recent weeks.

Margot James, who is standing for re-election as Stourbridge MP, said the park was being 'monopolised' by council staff and becoming inaccessible to

anyone who did not live within walking distance. Council bosses have ruled out extending the car park, saying it would be too expensive.

Philip Tart, strategic director for resources and transformation at Dudley Council, said: "We recognise that parking at Mary Stevens Park has become an issue and we have been working closely with the local community to resolve it.

"We are trying to balance our responsibilities in terms of use of the buildings with car parking availability for park users. As a result, we are currently looking at a number of options including reviewing which staff work from the council offices and alternative ways of working, including off-site.

"Once that review is complete we will be discuss-

ing the findings with the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee."

He added: "We did fully investigate the possibility of extending the car parks in the park but the significant cost of the work and the detrimental effect on the park meant we could not pursue this proposal."

Stourbridge councillor Heather Rogers, also chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park group, has been campaigning for a solution.

She said the workforce stationed in the park must be at least halved if the parking situation is to be solved.

"Unless they reduce it to 100 it obviously won't work because there are only 130 parking spaces," she said.

# Police in dawn raids on suspected football yobs

**SUSPECTED football hooligans were arrested in a series of dawn raids across the Black Country.**

Four men were arrested on Friday as West Midlands Police attempted to track down those involved in the violent aftermath of the Birmingham and Wolves derby on April 11.

And officers warned those who took part in the ugly scenes, but are still at large, that there are more arrests to come.

Two squads comprising a total of 20 officers were sent out to hunt down the Wolves fans involved as part of Operation Mondo. Those who were captured covered their faces as they were led from their homes and into police riot vans.

A 43-year-old man from King Edward Street in Darlaston, a 27-year-old from Pebble Close in Dudley and a 19-year-old from Rowan Rise, Kingswinford, were also arrested on suspicion of affray and taken into custody at Wednesbury police station. A 41-year-old man from Waterloo Road, right by Molineux, was also among those arrested.

Since the game, detectives have been looking into CCTV footage taken on the day and have released images of the remaining 11 suspects in a bid to get them identified as quickly as possible.

## Violence

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Joyce, who is leading the investigation, sent out a warning to the remaining hooligans that the force would not hesitate to carry out more early morning raids in the future.

He said: "The behaviour seen after the game was completely unacceptable. The violence was largely carried out by grown men who should know better and must now take responsibility for their actions that day.

"Our message is simple — if you don't come forward and hand yourselves in we'll be knocking on your door at the crack of dawn in the near future.

A spokesman for Wolves said: "Anyone found guilty of football related violence can be expected to be banned from matches for life."

The action against suspected football hooligans followed a series of dawn raids a week ago in a major crackdown on drug-related crime. Police smashed down the doors of homes in Bilston, Wednesbury and West Bromwich to make arrests during a series of early morning wake-up calls for suspects.

## 18th century comedy conquest



Cast members of Dudley Little Theatre company production of *She Stoops to Conquer* Phil Sheffield, Tony Stamp, Jane Williams and Ellis Daker in costume at Broadfield House Glass Museum

OLIVER Goldsmith's 240-year-old comedy, *She Stoops to Conquer*, is the next play being performed by the Netherton-based Dudley Little Theatre company.

The classic 18th century romp will be staged at Netherton Arts Centre, Northfield Road, from May 13 to 16 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 for adults and £6 concessions.

This is the fourth and final play of Dudley Little Theatre's current season. The 2015/16 season will start in September with the amateur group's production of Arthur Miller classic *All My Sons*, marking the centenary of the American playwright's birth.

Also coming up will be pirate yarn *Treasure Island* from December 2 to 5.

Call 01384 259267 for more information or see the company's website [www.dudleylittletheatre.org](http://www.dudleylittletheatre.org)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Crisis talks over the Hippodrome

CAMPAIGNERS trying to save Dudley Hippodrome were this week holding crisis talks with councillors and officials.

Labour group leader Pete Lowe, Conservative chief Patrick Harley and Dudley UKIP boss Paul Brothwood were meeting at Dudley Council House with the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group, including chairman Gordon Downing.

Tuesday's meeting came just days after an £8 million deal backed by The Rok Group to buy and run the landmark venue collapsed.

## Nearly new sale by child charity

PARENTS can get some bargains at a nearly new sale of baby and children's clothes taking place in Dudley on next Saturday.

It has been organised by the NCT Stourbridge and Halesowen Branch.

Visitors to the sale could save around 70 per cent on what items would cost when bought new.

As well as clothes, there will be stalls selling toys and equipment at the event which will be held at Thorns Leisure Centre, Quarry Bank, on May 16, from 11am until 1pm, with early entry at 10.30am for NCT members.

## Meeting on £1m chapel projects

RESTORATION plans for a grade II listed chapel buildings in the Black Country will be showcased at a meeting on Tuesday.

A £1million project to revamp Lye and Wollescote Chapels has begun.

People will be able to find out more about the scheme and the creation of a friends group at the event.

Project community facilitator Carolyn Healy will give an illustrated talk at 7pm at Stambermill House, Cemetery Road, Lye.

## Wizard opportunity to join The Young Ones

A YOUTH theatre group is holding auditions for people to join the cast of its next pantomime.

The Young Ones theatre group will be staging *The Wizard of Oz* in January at Netherton arts Centre, in Northfield Road.

People aged from eight to 18 are invited to audition for roles during an event on May 17.

Call Chris Sykes on (01384) 895266, Chris Dodwell on (01384) 78290 or Audrey Henwood on (01384) 393196.

## Cider fest charity aim

A PUB will be helping raise funds for cancer and guide dog charities with its cider festival at the end of the month. The festival at the Jolly Crispin in Clarence Street, Upper Gornal, runs from May 29 to 31, including a circus-themed family fun day on the Sunday from 2pm.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Hangover? Just hang garland round neck

THE throbbing headache, the churning stomach, if there ever was a real cure for a hangover its creator would make billions.

Well according to boffins at Oxford University, the ancient Egyptians thought they had it cracked.

Instead of Alka-Seltzer and ibuprofen, the ancient Egyptians believed that walking around with a garland round your neck is the best way to cure that morning-after feeling.

It's an interesting thought. But I would just love to see the conversation with the copper when explaining the unusual item of clothing at three in the morning.

□□□□□

THE milestone birthday arrives, and the tabloids can barely control their excitement. Pages of coverage for days on end, and countless pictures.

No, not the new royal Princess, David Beckham's flipping 40th birthday...

Does anybody really care? Forgive my indifference, but isn't it time we all learned to get over the middle-aged underpants salesman?

It has been many years since he played football at the top level, and I really don't understand what the continued fascination is with the man who always promised so much, but ultimately failed to live up to expectations.

When he burst into Alex Ferguson's exciting Manchester United side in the mid-1990s, he had the world at his feet, a prodigious talent who set the Premier League alight.

However, his story is ultimately one of a player who became so engrossed in the celebrity lifestyle that he never quite fulfilled his undoubted potential. Yes, he could cross a ball beautifully, and he had a fine free kick, but he always gave the impression of being more interested in partying with pop stars than getting stuck in on the football pitch.

A good footballer, yes, but never the great one he could have been.

And regardless, his footballing days are long over, so why do we need to be treated to endless pictures of him in his underwear?

Maybe to ladies of a certain age he is the bee's knees, but to me he is still the bloke who kicked the Argie up the bum and threw away our hopes of getting one over the old enemy.

□□□□□

NOEL Gallagher has confessed that he steals plump pillows from Italian hotels so he can get a good night's sleep on tour.

Keith Moon used to throw television sets out of hotel windows. Ozzy Osbourne bit the head off a bat. Noel Gallagher half-inches fluffy soft furnishings.

Rock'n'roll excess. It ain't what it used to be, is it?



Slade perform Them Kinda Monkey's Can't Swing



On the road and on the water in between performances



The boys enjoy themselves with some water for the fans



Tom Conti as the band's manager Robert Seymour



Noddy, Jim and Dave are caught on camera



Don's character Charlie, with one of his foundry colleagues

# Flame and fortune

**PETE MADELEY** takes a look at Slade's short-lived silver screen stardom, 40 years on from their movie's release

**IT has been described as 'the Citizen Kane of British pop films' and features one of the world's most successful rock bands performing in a gritty expose of the darker side of the music industry.**

It's now 40 years since Slade in Flame hit cinema screens, starring Black Country glam troupe Slade playing fictitious musicians in a made-up band.

At the time they were riding the crest of the wave on the back of a string of number one hits including Cum On Feel The Noize, Skweeze Me, Pleeze Me and Take Me Bak 'Ome. But movie-goers expecting bell-bottomed hi-jinks and Walsall's Noddy Holder screaming 'It's Christmaaaaaaassss!' every five minutes were in for a shock.

What they got was an at times bleak view of the music business, complete with unscrupulous agents, dangerous gangster types and a band's rise to stardom followed by inevitable fall from grace.

## Fantasy

Sure there's humour – a furious Noddy singing while padlocked inside a coffin on stage is comedy gold – but this was not your average film about a rock band.

It was a million miles away from The Beatles' A Hard Day's Night, the rock star fantasy of the David Essex vehicle Stardust and various glam rockers' bizarre Never Too Young To Rock. According to Slade drummer Don Powell, that was precisely what the band intended.

"We had no interest in making another typical film about a rock band, that had already been done," said Don, who lives with his family in Aarhus in Denmark.

"None of us really knew what we had let ourselves in for. But we ended up with a film that comes across as pretty dark."

"It shows the downside of the music business, all the crooks and the gangsters."

Don returned to Wolverhampton the city of his birth as guest of honour at a Slade convention at the Robin 2 club in Bilston, organised



Slade at the Robin in 2013, from left, John Berry, Dave Hill, Don Powell and Mal Nulty

to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the iconic movie. Filmed over the course of six weeks at locations across the UK, Slade in Flame follows the fortunes of a fictitious band as they hit the road to the big time at the tail end of the swinging 60s.

In the film members from two rival bands join up to form Flame, giving them the same line up as the real-life Slade – Noddy Holder, Don Powell, Dave Hill and Jim Lea.

From then on it's a telling tale of a young band marketed and exploited to the point where they eventually tire of the whole business and pack it all in.

The idea for a film was hatched by Slade manager Chris Chandler, who saw it as the next logical step in the band's successful career.

It was written by Andrew Birkin – with more than a little guidance from the band themselves. "The first story Andrew brought to us wasn't really what we wanted," said Don.

"So we took him and Richard Loncraine (director) on tour with us to the States for a few weeks. If you want to know what life in a band is like, go out on tour!"

"They came to all the gigs and travelled with us – really got to know us as people. There's a lot of spare time and we would tell stories about daft things that had happened to us and other bands."

"Andrew had a tape recorder with him all the time. Although the film is fictional a lot of what you see in there actually happened in real life, although not necessarily to us."

The early scenes of two young bands plying their trade around bingo halls and weddings certainly echo the pre-Slade band The 'N Betweens. And Don's character Charlie is shown grafting in a factory – a nod to his early real-life job as a foundry worker in Willenhall.

The aforementioned Noddy-in-a-coffin scene reflects the antics of Screaming Lord Sutch, who was once trapped inside a coffin on stage while he performed with his band The Savages. But there are times when the film departs wildly from reality.

In one memorable scene Jim Lea sees Noddy tending to his pigeons. "Come in," invites Noddy, covered from head-to-toe in pigeon muck. "They're vegetarians."

"To this day I'm sure Noddy has never

done anything like that," chuckled Don. "The thought of Noddy training pigeons! I think Andrew pulled that one out of the sky."

Respected actors were also brought onto the cast, including Alan Lake who played the appropriately named Jack Daniels and Tom Conti as the band's manager Robert Seymour.

Fresh from a stint at Her Majesty's pleasure, Lake was fired during his first day on set after enjoying a lengthy liquid lunch – only to be reinstated when his wife Diana Dors agreed to police his sobriety for the remainder of filming.

Don admits his nerves began to jangle prior to filming, his concerns exacerbated by a tragic car accident he was involved in that killed his fiancée Angela Morris and left him suffering severe short-term memory loss.

He said: "I had amnesia after the car crash and thought: 'There's no way I'm going to be able to learn my lines'."

"But of course I didn't have to learn the whole film in one go. I would learn what I needed to before I went on set, so it wasn't as hard as I thought. I actually found it was great mental exercise for me to learn things. I spent a lot of my spare time on set watching how things are done."

The film also spawned a best selling book by John Pidgeon and a soundtrack which sold 170,000 copies before the film was even released. "Slade has always been about the music first and foremost," said Don. "We definitely weren't actors."

"The music was a central part of the film, but after it had premiered it wasn't the music that most people were talking about." Don is alluding to the somewhat mixed response Slade in Flame garnered from fans and critics alike. Some of the reviews were positive – with the BBC's Barry Norman praising it for having 'real grit' and 'real integrity' – while others suggested fans were better off just listening to the soundtrack.

Don said that sections of the band's fanbase struggled to come to terms with the harsh realities of the music business depicted in the film. There's also an argument that the film may have ended up damaging Slade's career. They never scored another number one hit single in the UK after its release, having had six between 1971 and 1973.

"Part of the problem was that people couldn't get their heads around the fact that we were playing characters, not ourselves," Don muses. "But I'm glad we did it and I'm proud of the film."

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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## Yet more M6 money down the drain

SO it appears £65 million must be spent on the M6 conurbation in the West Midlands. How much more cash do they need to throw at this motorway? 1 for one do not put any faith in a motorway with a non-running hard shoulder, very nice in bright weather, not so good in rain or dark conditions. Motorway signs on gantries help, if they work.

To me the hard shoulder is and should be for emergency only, not running vehicles.

The money spent so far on upgrading this particular piece of motorway going through Junctions 8, 9, 10, 11, together with the

proposed £65m could have built M6-2 as opposed to HS2. Why not try to do a deal with the owners of the toll road; surely £65m would be welcome in their coffers? A large problem is the M5/M6 junction, the M5 should have been routed to join M6 north of Stafford where the traffic thins out a little.

It just goes to show when viewing the hold-ups and congestion the economy is booming and the best way to send goods is by road transport, regardless.

**M SAXON**  
Tipton

## Hedgehogs need help

AS we are in Hedgehog Awareness Week, which runs from May 3 to 9, I am writing to ask your readers to 'think hedgehog'!

Hedgehog Awareness Week is organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and takes place every year. Tips can be found on our website [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

There is so much that we can do to help the hedgehog in our own garden. Offering hedgehog food or a meaty pet food and water, especially during dry weather, can be a life saver.

Also cut back on pesticides, cover drains or deep holes, and ensure there is an easy route out of ponds and pools – these will take five minutes to do and help immensely. With hedgehog numbers in serious decline, helping them is more important than ever.

**FAY VASS**  
BHPS

## Manor Way needs a crossing

THE excellent picture of cycling legend Hugh Porter campaigning to get a crossing installed outside Manor Abbey Stadium in Halesowen (Halesowen Chronicle) illustrates the difficulties of trying to cross Manor Way.

However, it is not just cyclists and athletes who need to traverse the dual carriageway here, as local residents also have to cross to get to and from the bus stops. Inevitably this involves clambering over the crash barriers.

The barriers were erected after a number of accidents in which vehicles veered over the central reservation and collided with oncoming traffic, a 'safety measure' that clearly gave little consideration for the wellbeing of pedestrians.

Speeding traffic is endemic at this location with vehicles travelling at 70-80mph being by no means unusual, despite the 40mph speed limit. Residents will hope that the Athletic and Cycling Club's campaign to get a crossing is successful.

**D FORT**  
Halesowen

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Sandwell Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

[sandwell.chronicle@  
expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk)

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Super hospital is not only solution

IT has become apparent to me over the past few months, that whilst the new 'Super Hospitals' incorporate all of the new equipment that cannot be put in place in all of the smaller hospitals, there is a need for more local community hospitals.

Here non-acute patients can receive treatment and rehabilitation by dedicated staff who have the time and expertise to help people towards discharge, that the bigger hospitals cannot provide.

This is not meant as a criticism of the front line at the super hospitals but pure common sense. This is not only my view, but that of many people with whom I have had conversations.

Our leaders would have us believe that bigger is best, but this is not the case. Patients are individuals each with individual needs and it is about time that this were recognised by those making the rules. Perhaps with smaller hospitals it may be that managers could manage effectively, rather than it seems at present.

Perhaps the biggest insult of all though, is to read of the huge salaries and increases in salary of the chief executives whilst front line staff receive nothing. Maybe these executives should spend more time on the shop floor talking with relatives of patients who have so many complaints.

**L HALES**  
Cradley Heath

## Take pride in public toilets

I CAME to visit my grandparents who are in a home in Stourbridge and my children wanted the toilet. So we went into the Ryemarket ones which were very dirty with rubbish in corners of toilet cubicles.

The tiles needed a good clean in bleach and there was no toilet paper in any of the toilets. This was early Saturday morning. There was nobody to tell. Our toilets in Dudley are spotless. You could eat your dinner off the floor. It is about time Stourbridge took pride in their town as we do in ours.

**C COX**  
Dudley

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## Examples of Bodgers' art on display

Grange 'E' TG

THE monthly meeting was held at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge on April 7.

Chairman Hazel Smith presided and gave a very warm welcome to all, especially three new full members and three guests. Minutes from the previous meeting were read, accepted and signed. Treasurer Jill Attwood gave her latest financial report.

A visit to the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster has been arranged. Marlene O'Hanlon asked members if they would like to continue the monthly Lunch Club and it was agreed with the first to be held at The Old House at Home, Blakedown, on May 11 at noon.

It was reported that donations of copper coins for Lye Disabled and items for the Food Bank were still coming in on a regular basis.

Speakers for the evening were introduced as the Bantock Bodgers, a group of ladies who demonstrated the art of rag rugging.

Members were given the opportunity to try their hand at the craft. Many samples of work that the Bantock Bodgers had made were on display.

The vote of thanks was given by the chairman.

Hot cross buns and tea/coffee were then served by the committee and the raffle was drawn with three ladies winning a prize. Cakes were available on the sales table for members to purchase.

Recruitment for new members is going well. For any ladies wishing to come along as a visitor, call secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

## Dinner to celebrate guild's 60th birthday

Sedgley Evening TG



THE guild enjoyed a celebratory dinner at Sedgley Community Centre to mark its 60th anniversary.

More than 50 members were present at the event, which was attended by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Margaret Aston, together with representatives from the West Midlands' Federation.

Greetings were read out from the National Chairman, Margaret Key. The event also acknowledged the 90th birthday of its honorary president Edna Chapple.

Meetings of the Sedgley Guild were initially held in the home of one of its founding members in Catholic Lane, Sedgley.

Some 60 years later, the guild continues to meet at 7.15pm on the third Monday of each month at Sedgley Community Centre for talks by guest speakers.

It also runs craft and walking groups and plans a range of theatre visits and outings. New members and visitors are always welcomed.

At the next guild meeting on May 18 meeting, Anne Clarke will give a talk on the theme of 'A Coseley Tragedy'.

**Guild chairman Jan Wynn and Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Margaret Aston get into the party spirit**

## Talk on an influential family

Sedgley local History Society

THE next meeting of the society takes place on Thursday, May 14 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

The very short Annual General Meeting was followed by a presentation - The Rise & Fall of the Whitehouses of Turlis Hill.

Lorna Stevens has spent more than 10 years researching one of Woodsetton's most influential families. The family home was Turlis Hill House and there were strong links to All Saints Church, Sedgley and St

Mary's, Hurst Hill. The Whitehouse money was made and lost in coal mining and running blast furnaces.

This large Victorian family is well-documented and Lorna has discovered some intriguing stories, papers and diaries.

As usual visitors are invited to come along. Individual talks cost £1.

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# Mini mania as owners meet up at major show



British Mini Day organisers Dave and Nicky Hollis from Stourbridge with a 1989 Mini 30 edition and 2007 Mini Cooper

**A FORMER rally driver will be the special guest when Mini owners flock to Himley Hall for Sunday's major show by the British Mini Club.**

Paddy Hopkirk, aged 82, will get the motor running on the club's summer programme at Himley Hall.

Mr Hopkirk, from Northern Ireland, won the 1964 Monte Carlo rally in a Mini Cooper S. Alongside Henry Liddon, he was one half of the last all-British team to win the rally.

The veteran of rallying's golden age

will be signing photos for Mini enthusiasts visiting the event.

There will also be a premier class concours competition with 12 different classes to choose from, catering for every model of Mini.

Running alongside, there will be the Mini Show 'n' Shine display, with sections for both classic and modern models of the iconic car.

Dave Hollis, a member of the club's Midlands branch, said visitors would also have the opportunity to buy spare parts for from trade and auto jumble stands. There will also be the opportunity to buy Mini memorabilia.

He added: "This will be the 23rd

year that we have been doing the show at Himley Hall and we have got quite a strong following over the years."

The club was established in 1992 and has since grown to welcome thousands of members. The BMC will have a membership centre situated in the heart of the show area.

There will also be the chance to buy a classic Mini at the event. Tickets will be on sale from 10am at the BMC membership centre.

Entry to the show costs are £9 per person (£7 for BMC members), while children under 12 can go free accompanied by an adult. To find out more see [www.britishminiclub.co.uk](http://www.britishminiclub.co.uk)

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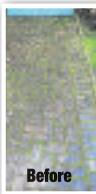
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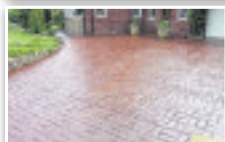
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# Talented folk are coming to town

By Danny Farragher

**THERE** will be some serious musical talent congregating in the Black Country this month for the Stourbridge Folk Festival.

Among the names playing over the four day event are Luke Jackson and Lucy Ward. The festival which runs from May 20 to 24 is the brainchild of Stourbridge's own Sunjay Brayne and Eddy Morton who will both be playing at Katie Fitzgerald's, 187 Enville Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.

The festival kicks off on Wednesday May 20 with Ranagri and Eddy Morton.

Ranagri is a new venture from four musicians Donal Rogers (vocals and guitar), Eliza Marshall (flutes/ethnic whistles), Jean Kelly (electric-harp) and Tad Sargent (bodhran and bouzouki). The band fuse world folk music with contemporary song writing and haunting melodies, interlaced with storytelling.

## Founder

Eddy Morton has worked all over the UK, Ireland and the USA supporting many top acts including, The Saw Doctors, Manfred Mann, Ralph McTell and Lindisfarne. He is also a founder member of the Bushbury Mountain Daredevils. Tickets for the show are £8 in advance or £10 on the night and the doors open 7.30pm

On Thursday May 21 Lucy Ward takes to the stage supported by Stourbridge band Kim Lowings & The Greenwood.

Ward is an award-winning, 24-year-old artist from Derby who plays guitar, ukulele and concertina. After winning the Horizon Award at the 2012 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Ward's career



Stourbridge blues and acoustic player Sunjay Brayne is part of the festival

has gone from strength to strength.

Kim Lowings & The Greenwood have established themselves on the British Folk Scene. Song writer and Appalachian Mountain dulcimer player Kim Lowings sings with a wonderfully pure voice. Tickets are £10 in advance and £12 on the night, doors open at 8pm. Booking is recommended.

On Friday May 22 Eddy Morton & The Bushburys are on stage supported by Sunjay.

Sunjay who runs the Stourbridge Folk Club has established himself as a respected singer and bluesman and recently finished a national tour with Steeleye Span. Tickets are £10 in advance and £12 on the night. Doors open 8pm and booking is recommended.

The next day on May 23 highly acclaimed singer/song writer Luke Jackson takes to the stage. Jackson, aged 20, is from Canterbury, Kent.

In 2013 he was nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for both the Horizon Award for Best Emerging Talent and The Young Folk Category. He

has recently released a new extended EP This Family Tree.

Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the day. Doors open 1pm and booking is essential.

Then on the night Flat Stanley, with support from Danni G, will be playing in the cellar bar. This is a concert in support of the Stourbridge Foundation For Music, so entry is free and doors open 8pm

On the final day Sunday May 24 Chris Smither is in concert with support from Sunjay

Smither draws deeply from the blues, American folk music, modern poets and philosophers.

Tickets £13 in advance or £15 on the day. Doors open 1pm and again booking is recommended.

Organisers urge anyone planning to go to the festival should check the details for each concert as door times and ticket prices may vary, and it's important to note there is no wheelchair access.

Under-18s get free entry to all folk club events but the club welcomes donations.

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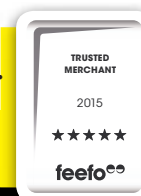
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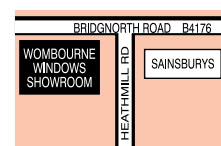
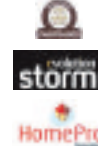
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## Council staff in 22 complaints

EMPLOYEES at Dudley Council made a total of 22 complaints in one year. The grievances were raised by staff in the year to March 2014. They related to working conditions, including accusations of bullying.

Council bosses said the figure had fallen since the previous 12 months and the majority of complaints were resolved. Another 12 grievance cases from the previous year were also closed during the period.

Figures revealed that more complaints were made by women at 56 per cent. More complaints were made by people aged between 50 and 59 than any other age bracket, at 38 per cent.

The council said the number of complaints was 'relatively low'. But Dudley councillor Ken Finch said every grievance raised is a cause for concern.

# Heroin addict is jailed after knife-point handbag robbery

**A HEROIN addict who threatened a woman with a knife and stole her handbag after a struggle has been locked up for more than four years.**

Ben Wilkes struck as the 49-year-old victim was walking to a meeting at the Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly Hall in Castle Hill, Dudley, at 8.30am on Sunday, February 22. The 28-year-old approached the victim after she got out of her car and asked for the time.

Mr Paul Farrow, prosecuting, said Wilkes

brandished a knife and stole her bag, although the plucky victim put up a struggle.

"She would not let it go at first," said Mr Farrow. "He pulled at her scarf, which tightened around her neck, and he tried to pull her to the ground but she stayed on her feet."

### Screams

Two men heard her screams and chased Wilkes before apprehending him. During the chase, he threw the weapon over a fence in Hillcrest Road.

The victim was left with bruises and had

patches of hair pulled out by Wilkes during the struggle.

Wilkes, of Bean Road, Dudley, was jailed for four years and four months. He had pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of a weapon.

Wilkes has been taking drugs since the age of 13. Mr Tim Talbot-Webb, defending, said Wilkes had a troubled past. He had 48 previous offences and was on bail for possession of a bladed article at the time of the offence.

As he was led to the cells at Wolverhampton Crown Court, he said: "Can you tell the victim I said I am sorry for putting her through this."

## 31-mile charity trek for hospice

WALKERS are being urged to lace up their boots to raise money for a Midland hospice next month.

An event organised by St Richard's Hospice offers people the chance to walk the whole of the Worcestershire Way in a day. This 31-mile challenge will be held on Friday, June 19, marking the 10th anniversary of the popular event.

The walk begins at 6am in Bewdley and walkers will stride out across wonderful Worcestershire countryside before a tough finish on the slopes of the Malvern Hills.

Alison Parkes, senior fundraiser, said: "The atmosphere is likely to be amazing."

For more information, contact Alison by email [aparkes@strichards.org.uk](mailto:aparkes@strichards.org.uk) or call 01905 763963.

## Duo will be rockin' the Robin



Black Country duo Brett Huckfield and Marie Timmins reached the final of a national contest

A MUSICAL duo from the Black Country are celebrating after being chosen to support a Canadian country singer-songwriter in concert.

Brett Huckfield, aged 46, of Oldbury, and Marie Timmins, 37, from Pensnett, were last night (Wednesday) opening for performer Tia McGraff at the Robin 2 in Bilston.

The pair who have been performing professionally together for 12 months are warming up for their busy summer of concerts and festival appearances.

It comes after they made it through to the final 25 in the national Open Mic contest earlier this year, beating off competition from more than 10,000 acts.

The duo play everything from blues to pop with Brett on lead vocals and guitar with Marie playing percussion.

They met in a guitar shop where songwriter and guitar teacher Brett worked, where they struck up a friendship and Brett began teaching Marie to play the guitar.

Brett said they were delighted to have been chosen to play at the Robin 2.

He said: "It's a great opportunity for us. Tia was discovered by Johnny Cash and is incredibly well-known in her home country. We hope it will be the start of many performances for us at the Robin."

The pair also have performances lined up around the Black Country during the summer including the Tipton Canal Festival and the Chainmakers Festival in Cradley Heath. They are also appearing at the Folk on the Water festival in Warwickshire in June.

Brett said: "It's going very well at the moment. We've got a busy few months ahead."

## Pet hospital should be completed in June

A £1.8 million animal hospital which will treat thousands of sick and injured pets is taking shape in Oldbury.

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) is building the centre on a site off Wolverhampton Road to replace its existing base in Quinton.

Work began in January and now contractors are beginning to fit out the inside of the premises which will house operating theatres, a critical care ward and the latest diagnostic and surgical equipment.

The project is expected to be completed next month when charity staff will be able to move in. Site manager Rob Toy said: "It's going very well and work is on track for completion in the middle of June."

The centre will also be a teaching hospital to develop the skills of vets. There will also be a dental theatre and six consulting rooms. A total of 20 full-time equivalent staff and cleaners will be based at the practice.

## Luxury flats snapped up

MORE than three quarters of luxury apartments being created in a transformation of an office block at Brierley Hill have been bought.

Developers say just 41 flats remain available out of a 181 being built at The Landmark — formerly Point North offices — at the Waterfront. The final apartments go on sale from May 16. The work is being carried out by developers Seven Capital and contractors Colmore Tang. The apartments will be finished in November.

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A BLACK Country car accident repair business is taking on extra staff as it experiences growing demand for its services.

BodyKraft, which was started in Kingswinford in 1998, now has three sites at Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, Canal Street, Brierley Hill and Drayton Street, Wolverhampton.

Managing director Mike Pugh, who has 35 years experience in the accident repair market, said it was looking for three more people including panel beaters and paint preppers. "We've got extra work coming in across our sites and need to replace some people who have left," he said.

BodyKraft, which has 80 staff, has West Midlands Police and Wolverhampton-based Carillon among its customers. It also carries out fleet work and light commercial vehicle repairs.

## Star role for Jessie, 22

A RISING star of the stage from Wall Heath is playing a lead role in the UK tour of Dirty Dancing, currently on stage at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Drama school graduate Jessie Hart stars as Baby Houseman during the three-week run at the Birmingham theatre, until May 23. The 22-year-old actress recently graduated from the Mountview of Theatre Arts in London and had a role in TV's Arthur and George.

## FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

# Players courting success for new tennis clubhouse

A TENNIS club in Dudley hopes an open day will prove a net gain for its bid for a new clubhouse.

Wall Heath Tennis Club, founded in 1972, received planning permission from Dudley Council to build a new clubhouse but are struggling to find the funds.

It will replace its existing structure, which is extremely run down and does not provide disabled access.

A range of activities for all ages were held at the open day with hundreds of pounds raised going straight towards the appeal.

Club volunteer Claire Colling said: "We had an excellent turnout. Our aim is to promote the club as much as we can and get this new clubhouse built."

### Relax

"We do not want anything fancy but the area we have now is not at all fit for purpose. We simply just want somewhere that our members can go and relax off the court."

"We have applied for grants which is not an easy thing to do."

"Thankfully we have had great support from both Dudley Council and local councillors."

"We have had so many letters from schools and businesses who want to use the courts but at the moment, the clubhouse just is not safe."

By Becky Weaver

She added the clubhouse at it stands had so many issues.

"We have the kitchen, which has a hole in the ceiling that leaks everywhere."

"Unfortunately this is not something that can just be done overnight, it is going to take a lot of time, but we will get it done."

"We are trying to raise £75,000 for this clubhouse. We have held fundraisers before but we really need a big push to make this happen."

"Thanks to the open day, we managed to gain around 20 new members who got a years membership at a reduced rate."

"We really do welcome anyone to come and join the club and get behind us on this. "We want to be able to cater for everyone but without disabled access it is incredibly difficult."



Club volunteer Claire Colling at the Wall Heath Tennis open day to raise money for a new clubhouse

## Units 'yes' in spite of noise fears

PLANS to install three new condensing units at the back of a Conservative Club have been approved – despite noise concerns.

Dudley Council's development control committee agreed to Kingswinford Conservative Club's application for the units. The council had received nine letters of objection from residents. One, David Colbourne, had voiced fears over the levels of noise.

He told the committee the cumulative volume from the three units at a metre's distance would be 57 decibels, though there is a bowling green in between the units and the nearest properties, meaning the noise level at these homes would be lower.

A report from the council's head of environmental health and trading standards stated noise levels would be 56 decibels from one metre away.

## Gifts handed out to pupils

A KINGSWINFORD company is handing out pens, pencils and paper products to all schools visiting the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley during National Stationery Week.

Mapped Helix, on the Pensnett Estate, produces a range of education products and is one of the sponsors of the week up until May 3.

The donations are aimed at promoting the art of handwriting among youngsters.

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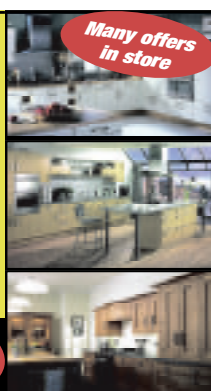
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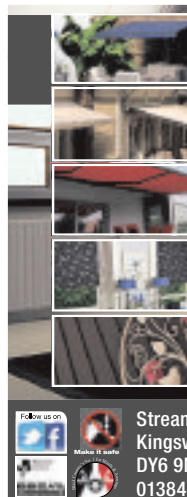
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## Talk on monarch found in car park

KING Richard III will be in the spotlight during Stourbridge Historical Society's next meeting.

Historian Max Keen will be giving a talk about the monarch's life and the discovery of his body buried under a Leicester car park in September 2012.

It will take place in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on May 21 at 7.30pm.

David Hickman, from the society, said: "Max has been to speak at Stourbridge Historical Society on a number of occasions before. His talks are brought to life with illustrations, and a range of material relevant to the story. In order to make the tale more vivid Max dresses up as the person he is describing. There is much humour and plenty to hold the audience's attention."

For more details visit [www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com)

# Borough is better than some but most homes 'unaffordable'

**JUST two out of every 10 homes on sale in the West Midlands is affordable for the average first time buying family, according to housing charity Shelter.**

Dudley was the most affordable district in the Black Country, but more than six out of 10 homes were still out of reach for first time buyers.

Shelter claims that overall nearly 80 per cent of properties on the market aren't affordable for families looking to buy their first home.

The housing charity analysed asking prices for thousands of properties for sale throughout the region, and compared them with the mortgage that an average family buying their first home could afford.

That revealed only 22 per cent of home for sale are affordable for families that need at least two bedrooms, and only eight per cent – less than one in 10 – are affordable for larger families looking for homes with three bedrooms or more.

In South Staffordshire there were just 23 – less than seven per cent of homes on sale in the district were considered affordable.

In Kidderminster, Cannock and Sandwell just two in 10 homes were affordable, while in Wolverhampton and Walsall the situation was slightly better with nearly three in 10 homes affordable. In hotspots like Warwick there were just five affordable properties.

The charity says families face continued instability and high housing costs unless there is urgent action to build more homes.

Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter, said: "Nearly 80 per cent of homes on the market are off limits for a typical family in the West Midlands and this is nothing short of a scandal."



Shelter's Campbell Robb

## Petition calling for 20mph limit

AROUND 150 people have signed a petition calling for the speed limit to be reduced further outside a primary school in Wordsley.

Campaigners want the speeds to be slashed from 30mph to 20mph to improve safety for pupils outside Belle Vue Primary School, off Lawnswood Road.

Residents are urging officials to cut the limits as soon as possible and will table their petition to Dudley Council in coming weeks.

The are backed by ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley, who is co-ordinating the petition which could also prompt a cut in limits in other areas of the borough.

It comes after he helped launch a speed watch campaign in Wordsley where motorists' speeds are monitored by campaigners and police using hand-held speed guns

## Grandson publishes soldier's memoir



David Galley with the book from his grandfather's writings

A MAN'S determination to find out more about his grandfather's military service led to the surprise discovery of an exercise book containing a hand-written memoir of war-time experiences.

David Galley, of Brierley Hill, has now produced a book based on the document penned by Edward Galley about life as a soldier in the Boer War and First World War.

Mr Galley, aged 68, who has recently become president of the Black Country Society, said he knew his grandfather had served in Second Worcestershire Regiment.

"I also knew he won a medal but wasn't aware of the circumstances behind it and wanted to find out more," he said. "I contacted the regiment archive and but was told the details in regards the citation had been lost when records were destroyed during the Second World War. I thought that was the end of it."

But his project unexpectedly got back on track when an aunt presented him with the handwritten memoir. The book, priced £5, is on sale at Ashwood Nurseries, Red House Cone and from [www.blackcountrysociety.co.uk](http://www.blackcountrysociety.co.uk).

## Play week target is more than 5,000

DUDLEY Council is looking to top the 5,000 people who attended its summer play week last year with events in five borough parks.

Dudley Play Week — being held from August 3 to 7 — there will be free activities run from noon to 4pm in the following borough parks: Huntintree Park, Halesowen, August 3; Silver Jubilee Park, Cosely, August 4; Wollescote Park, August 5; Priory Park, Dudley, August 6 and The Dell and Fens Pool, Brierley Hill, August 7.

Activities for children will include a climbing wall, arts and crafts, face painting and an animal area.

Organisations interested in getting involved are being invited to planning meetings that are being held on June 19 and July 16 at Saltwells Education Centre, Netherton, from 10am to noon.

They can also contact Keith Rogers on (01384) 813828.

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## Sailing club prepares for charity lake race

A SAILING club is gearing up for a six hour race in aid of a lifesaving charity.

Members of Himley Hall Sailing Club are preparing for the race on Saturday at the lake in the grounds of Himley Hall, that will see them raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The club has raised over £96,000 since they first ran the race in 1976 for the RNLI, who save lives at sea.

Organiser Alan Dean said: "We are hoping that the event this year will be really big. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is such a worthy cause. If there are other sailing clubs out there who would like to enter, there's still time. Just contact the club."

Call Tony Sutton on 07774 818 449. The lake at Himley Hall is one of the smallest sailing lakes in the country but is highly rated. There will also be sailing taster day held on May 19.



Anne Richardson, centre, with daughters Jennie Powers, left, and Steph Griffin, both of of Pensnett

## Family use their heads to boost MS group by £1,000

THEY are sisters who say they do everything together but Steph Griffin and Jennifer Powers have taken things a step further with their charity headshave – their mother getting involved as well.

The trio decided to shed their locks in an attempt to raise money for father and husband Martin's multiple sclerosis support group, based in Kingswinford.

It was mother Anne Richardson who came up with the idea of a head-shave as a way of boosting the group. After asking daughters Steph, 27, and Jennifer, 33, they agreed they would all do it together.

Martin, who lives in Kingswinford with wife Anne, visits the Dingle Community Centre in Madeley Road every week and his family say it has had a major impact on his life. The sessions are run by the MS Society to help those with MS to meet and improve their quality of life.

Steph, of Tiled House Lane, Pensnett, said: "Dad has suffered with multiple sclerosis for 22 years and mum wanted to do something to help raise some money for the group."

Steph added: "I was expecting to raise around £400 and we've raised £1,000. It's amazing."

Staff from Blaze Hair in Kingswinford did the honours by shaving their heads.

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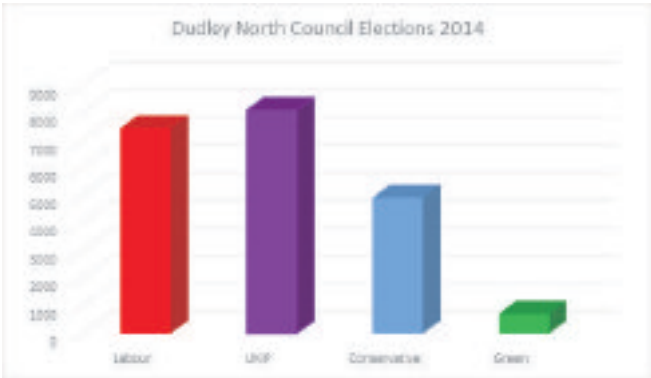
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## Hit-and-run driver loses appeal over his sentence

**AN UNINSURED hit-and-run driver who killed cycling pensioner by overtaking on the inside, at speeds of around 60mph, has been told he deserves every day of his jail term.**

Kile Daniel Straker, of Wolverhampton, ploughed into 74-year-old George Searle, of Dudley, before speeding off 'like a getaway driver', leaving the pensioner for dead. He then abandoned his car at a garage, after giving the owner a false name.

**By Heather Large**

He was jailed for eight-and-a-half years in November and was banned from driving for 10 years, after he admitted causing death by dangerous driving and driving while uninsured.

But the 24-year-old, of Armstrong Drive, Dunstall Park, challenged his sentence at London's Criminal Appeal Court. His lawyers argued the judge was wrong to assess his crime as being one of the most serious examples of causing death by dangerous driving.

### Senior

But his complaints were thrown out by three senior judges, who said his bad driving was 'persistent and prolonged' and his jail term was 'not excessive'.

Grandfather-to-be Mr Searle, a cycling enthusiast from Dudley, was riding his bike along Stafford Road, towards Wolverhampton city centre, at about 12.30pm on July 11, 2013, when Straker hit him.

A van driver was safely overtaking the cyclist when Straker tried to undertake the van, striking Mr Searle. The collision was so severe that the victim struck and shattered the windscreen

before being thrown over the car into the road.

Police investigations found that Straker had been driving at an average speed of 60mph on the 40mph road just before the crash.

Passers-by rushed to the aid of Mr Searle, who was married with two children, but nothing could be done to save him. Without stopping, Straker drove off and continued to drive dangerously – speeding on a roundabout, undertaking another car, straying into a bus lane and ignoring a red light.

Straker was arrested a month later but denied being the driver of the car until five days before he was due to stand trial.

Dismissing his appeal, Mr Justice Mitting said: "This driving, taken as a whole – from the moment he began to drive at excessive speed, through the grossly dangerous undertaking manoeuvre, which resulted in the fatal collision, right through to the point at which he abandoned the car in the garage – was plainly a prolonged and persistent course of very bad driving. He showed a flagrant disregard for the rules of the road."

## Fancy footwork for dementia charity

DANCERS will be showing off their fancy footwork to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

Neil and Avril Tasker have organised a ballroom dance at Wombourne Civic Hall on Saturday. The evening includes ballroom, latin and line dances and there will also be a raffle to help raise funds. Mr Tasker said: "It's great to think that we will be raising funds to help support people to live well with dementia today."

Emma Dowler, community fundraiser at Alzheimer's Society, said: "Dementia is more than just memory loss; it robs people of their lives and has a devastating impact on families and loved ones. As a charity, we rely on the generosity of individuals like Neil to help us continue our vital work."

Entry is £5 and advance tickets can be purchased by calling Neil or Avril on 01902 880806. The dance will be from 8pm and there will be a bar.



# Award for 'on the ball' referee trainer Walter



Walter Wakeman with his daughter Angela and Wolverhampton Referees Association Chairman Phil Reade

'SHOULD have gone to Specsavers' is a familiar call from the football terraces.

So it's not surprising that Walter Wakeman got some gentle ribbing for training football referees at an institute for the blind.

The 86-year-old, who has received an award to mark 30 years service with the Wolverhampton Referees Association, said he even made national news due to the unusual location of his training courses, with a mention on Radio 2.

He said: "The DJ Terry Wogan made a joke about it when he lightheartedly suggested that this might explain why so many referees made mistakes but we took it in the spirit with which it was meant."

Mr Wakeman from Lodge Road, Oxley,

a personnel manager and training officer, qualified as a referee in 1984 aged 56 but was so shocked that four of the 16 candidates who studied alongside him did not pass that he offered to take over the training himself.

He started the following year at an office in the Blind Institute at Sedgley which later became the Beacon Centre and continued there for six years before moving to a new site.

Mr Wakeman ran 50 courses, each comprising 10 Friday evenings and an exam day, in the 23 years he spent as the main tutor for the Wolverhampton Referees Association, the second largest in the UK, before finally hanging up his whistle at the age of 80 in 2008.

By then a total of 579 men and women had been on the courses and only 14 failed.

He is still a member and was given a



In refereeing days

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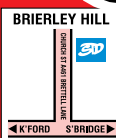
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Privately-owned Sunbeams leaving the Tetterhall Transport Heritage Centre



AJS testers roaring out of the Graiseley factory (the Waitrose site) and off down the Penn Road



The triumphant AJS team from the 1921 Isle of Man TT Races



Workers pour out of Sunbeamland, where Sunbeam bikes were made

# When town roared to victory at the Isle of Man races

THEY were glorious times for Wolverhampton, when the then town would send off several factory teams to the TT races on the Isle of Man, fully expecting that one or more would come back winners.

The Tourist Trophy Races were then the pinnacle of motorbike racing. In the Blakenhall area especially, workers would be anxious to hear news of how 'their' boys had got on, and whether they would hold bragging rights for the next year.

The main contenders were usually Sunbeam and AJS, competing for the senior and junior TTs, with several wins each during the 20s and 30s.

However, the small firm of HRD was to break the mould for a short while, with wins in 1925 and 1927, and Diamond, from Sedgley Street often competed in the lightweight TT, with a best finish of seventh, and even the tiny

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

firm of HB, in Walsall Street, raced in 1923. Extraordinarily, these were not the only motor-bike manufacturers in Wolverhampton.

Clyno was a major name, but never fielded a racing team, and later turned to building cars. Villiers was one of the biggest names in the industry, but mostly as an engine supplier. Only very late in the day did the company build some of the last Norton Commando motorcycles, finishing in 1975.

Several other small manufacturers sprang up over the years, usually not lasting, long like Jukes on the Bilston Road, Olympic in Granville Street, Orbit in Sedgley Street and Wearwell in Great Brickkiln Street.

Now all of these marques are gone, and a town which was almost the centre of the British motorbike industry does not even have on display a single example of those glorious days.



HS 'Bert' Kershaw with the first Villiers engine-gear unit in 1936



A Clyno military motorcycle combination used in the First World War

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## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# WINDOW COMPANY GLAZED IN SUCCESS!

DW Windows Ltd are now starting their 9th year of trading. Since moving into our current showroom at 7 Brick Street, Sedgley in 2010, the company has grown rapidly from two to five fitting teams with a dedicated service and maintenance engineer, who are all directly employed as opposed to using sub-contractors. The team also consists of a dedicated installations manager, surveyor, two quotation experts and five administration staff creating an additional 12 new jobs for local people.

The business is still very much family run with Company Director Dave Walters heavily involved with the everyday running of the business with five other members of staff who are family members. Dave's wife, Claire Walters has also joined the company to assist Dave with Health & Safety and HR requirements.

Our company ethos is 'if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right'. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, workmanship, quality and after-sales and this is why we have gone from strength to strength over the last 8 years of economic uncertainty.

We now have approximately 4500 happy customers on our books. We took on 676 customers last year alone and 60 - 70% of these were recommendations or repeat business from existing customers having more work done. This is testament to our high levels of customer satisfaction and quality workmanship.

Over the past twelve months we have improved the foundation of the company by attaining Construction Health & Safety Scheme accreditation (CHAS), training all of our staff in health & safety procedures and appointing an external health & safety advisor to ensure that we are working safely and competently on customers properties and performing first class installations. This has also achieved us our first major commercial contract replacing 100 properties with windows and doors for a local housing association. We have taken on new products such as the Equinox Tiled roofing system for conservatories and noticed a massive swing of customers choosing composite doors as opposed to UPVC which offer improved looks and security.

Moving forward, DW Windows Ltd have completely outgrown our local Sedgley showroom and are now near to completing a deal to secure additional larger premises. This will enable us to continue to expand our installation team, create new office space and enable us to have one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands to showcase all of our fantastic products. Although we will keep our Sedgley showroom, the new premises

will allow us to create more jobs, assist the company to continue to expand whilst offering an increased product range and an even better service to our customers.





# Immigration row couple anniversary

A COUPLE who were torn apart by an immigration ruling say they are enjoying life together again a year after winning their appeal and being reunited.

But the strain of overturning the Home Office ruling proved so much for Robert Cooper that he has temporarily stepped down from his role as a church pastor.

His wife Adna, who is from Brazil, is working full-time for a logistics firm in Halesowen, while the pair both live in a flat in Brierley Hill.

The couple's high profile campaign received the support of former MP Chris Kelly, who recently stepped down from his Dudley South MP seat, and attracted headlines for the loving couple forced apart by red tape.

## Refused

It started when Adna, aged 36, was refused a permanent entry to the UK to live with her husband Robert, 40, despite the pair marrying in Kingswinford in 2000.

They lived together for three years in the Black Country, but after the couple lived for a spell in Brazil, Adna was told she could not come back to live permanently in the UK when the couple prepared to return

to the Black Country. She stayed in the UK on a tourist visa for a while but then had to leave in January last year, sparking an appeal against the Home Office decision.

In May last year the couple won their appeal following a campaign and a tribunal hearing decided Adna should be given a visa to stay.

The pair must get the stay extended next year but, after it runs for five years, she will be granted a permanent visa to remain in the UK.

Robert, who gave up his job as a pastor for a Brazilian-based church in London in January, said: "It's been a great year to be back together again."

"At one point it didn't look we'd get make it, but we did and we're trying to enjoy everyday."

"I don't understand still why we were refused. I agree we need tight controls on immigration but I believe they should look closely at each individual case."

"The whole appeal did drain me. It took so much out of me I couldn't continue my role as a pastor and had to get help myself. I'm now doing English tutoring, but hope to go back to being a pastor soon."



Reunited — Robert and Adna Cooper, of Brierley Hill, a year on since they won their appeal to the Home Office

# Skunk smoking dealer is ordered to have drug rehab

A SPLIFF cost a 39-year-old man dear after a passing policeman spotted him smoking 'skunk' in a Black Country park, a judge heard.

The officer saw Paul Jones and two other people acting suspiciously in Priory Park, Dudley on December 18, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Jones realised he had been spotted and threw something to the ground that turned out to be a cannabis cigarette, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

A tin with two more of the spliffs and £30 worth of loose cannabis was found in the possession of the defendant, who also had £385 cash, the court heard.

Police searched his home in Clifton Street, Old Hill where more skunk cannabis worth up to £720 was discovered, said Mr Searle. The defendant's mobile phone revealed messages that indicated he had been drug dealing, the court heard.

Jones, who had previous convictions for both possession and production of cannabis, had kicked the habit only to revert back to alcohol and drug abuse when he lost his job last year, said Miss Nicole Steers, defending.

She added: "He did this to drown his sorrow after becoming depressed and his life spiralled out of control. He wants to start a law abiding existence."

Jones admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply and was given a 12 month jail sentence suspended under supervision for two years, during which he will receive drug rehabilitation treatment and do 180 hours unpaid work. The cash seized from him by police was forfeited as the proceeds of crime.

# I don't believe it! Wilson in Lenny series

THE cast of Lenny Henry's new TV series Danny and The Human Zoo – a fictionalised account of his life as a talented teenager in 1970s Dudley – has been announced.

Among the actors lined up for the BBC One drama, which is based on the actor and comedian's early days including a spell working at Dudley Zoo, is One Foot in the Grave actor Richard Wilson.

Kascion Franklin will play Danny with Lenny playing his father Samson and Cecilia Noble his mother Myrtle.

Arthur Darvill, of Doctor Who and Broadchurch fame, will play Danny's manager Jonesy while Wilson will be playing the promoter James Broughton.

Rehearsals for the show, which will be shot in and around Dudley, got under way this week.

## Park

Speaking about the show Lenny, who was born near Dudley's Buffery Park, said: "I can't believe that we're finally shooting my screen-play Danny and The Human Zoo."

"This is a fantasy memoir of the first two years of my career; my beginnings, working at the zoo, working men's clubs and all that stuff that happened to me in the mid 1970s – but crammed into 90 minutes."

He added: "The script took about three years with the help of Nicola Shindler and Caroline Hollick at RED Productions — and now we're going to make it in Dudley."



Actor Richard Wilson



Early days — Lenny Henry

Nicola Shindler, executive producer, described the show, saying: "It's a funny, bold and at times shocking fictionalisation of his story."

# School homes agreed

A £2.2 million project to convert a former school in Colesey into 16 homes has been given the go-ahead.

The Victorian Mount Pleasant School will now be transformed under Dudley Council plans.

The school was later home of Dudley archives and local history service. Under the plans, the building will be transformed into 15 terraced houses and one detached.

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# Why choice of local MP is vital



**I THINK** focusing on voting for the party you want to see in government is a waste of time.

You don't need me to explain how the only thing your vote counts towards is the person who represents you as your local MP.

What I do think I need to spell out is why it's more important than ever to think locally. No-one is going to win this election unless something utterly incredible happens in the dying days of this bitter, long-winded campaign.

## Deals

It doesn't matter how much David Cameron and Ed Miliband say they're going for an all out majority. Neither is going to get one. The next government will be formed as a result of discussions and deals done behind closed doors. It's not the case that the party that wins the most votes also wins the most seats. If that's happened before it's only been by a happy coincidence.

While the parties argue it out, while they bicker over whether or not the real winner will be Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP, the most important thing is going to be having a decent MP fighting your corner.

Nicola Sturgeon, for all the risk it's claimed she poses to the United Kingdom, is fighting tooth and nail for the people she represents.

She'll squeeze every last drop of funding out of the Treasury for Scotland if she gets the chance and she's not even an MP. Can we really blame her for that? She's doing her job. What every one of us will need in Westminster



Yet another selfie as Nicola Sturgeon goes on the campaign trail

ster will be an MP who is going to be the flea in the ear of the government, whichever party or parties form it.

Ordinarily the best sort of person to have is someone who puts the national interest first.

There's no longer any such thing. Devolution is coming whoever wins the election.

It's going to be a mad dash for the West Midlands to get itself organised, make its bid for powers over skills, transport and health and use them to compete furiously with a rapidly rising northern powerhouse and an ever expanding south east.

We're not all in this together anymore. Not as a nation at least. It's going to have to be the West Midlands, with a population larger than Scotland, versus the rest in this new

political order. Another absolute certainty is more cuts. Public resources will continue to be squeezed and if there is to be any money for it then it will need someone utterly and completely devoted to improving their constituency to get it.

That person might be of any of the parties and that party's policies are still vital, of course, when making the decision. They will be expected to go along with every one of those manifesto promises in the event their leader becomes Prime Minister.

The next government might not deliver anything like what the individual parties promise if it is formed of compromise, confidence and supply.

The choice of local MP is the only thing over which the ballot paper exercises any control whatsoever.

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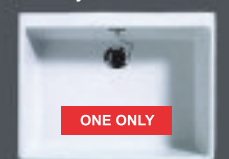
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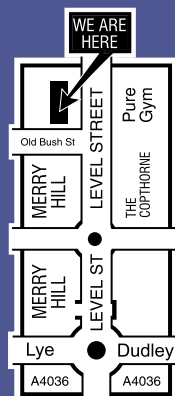
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# Black Country pupils in pioneering maths scheme

SCHOOLS in the Black Country have been trialling a maths programme that enables teachers to monitor pupils' progress online.

A total of 24 schools across Dudley, Sandwell, Birmingham and Walsall have received £500,000 funding from the Education Endowment Foundation for the Maths Flip programme. It is a two year project working with pupils in years five and six to help them to improve their skills.

The resource enables pupils to carry out 'pre-learning' whereby their teacher posts a Powerpoint presentation to an online site and the children then complete a task so the teacher can see how well they

have done and adjust their classroom lesson accordingly.

Jennifer Devaney, project manager at Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick, said the course replaced the traditional pen and paper method of doing homework and made it easier for tutors to keep track of their pupils' work.

She said pupils reported benefits with their SATS results, while teachers felt they could shift their focus onto harder concepts and problem solving, rather than having to wait for pupils to catch up.

In total, 540 pupils are participating in the project, which could be copied at schools across the country.



Teacher Claire Watmore with Abdul Noor, Molly-Mae Wilkinson and Maria Kaid from Halesowen CE Primary

# Fake stamps and illegal cigs seized

THOUSANDS of contraband cigarettes and suspected counterfeit first class stamps were seized during raids in Dudley.

Four properties in the town were searched by trading standards officers and police following a tip off about the illegal supply of tobacco.

A total of 5,340 illicit and counterfeit cigarettes, 25 packs of tobacco and 1,873 suspected counterfeit first class stamps were seized.

An investigation has been launched by Dudley Council following the raids which took place last month.

John Millar, acting strategic director for economy, environment and housing, said: "Together with our police colleagues, we searched four properties in Dudley, following information about the illegal supply of tobacco. Investigations are ongoing and we are unable to comment further at this stage."

# Ambulance service is named as the best

THE West Midlands Ambulance Service has been named as the best performing service in the country.

Its paramedics responded to heart attack patients faster than anywhere else and control rooms staff were quickest to answer 999 calls.

Only two services bettered its performance for reaching all other types life-threatening emergencies.

In the Department of Health figures, the service also came second for the amount of time it took for a patient-carrying vehicle to reach scenes of emergencies.

Its performance across the board during 2014/15 could not be matched by any other service.

The service's chief executive Anthony Marsh said the results demonstrated the 'incredibly hard work' of ambulance staff.

Figures showed West Midlands Ambulance Service had beaten its target of reaching patients who were suffering heart attacks or severe breathing difficulties within eight minutes. That happened 77 per cent of the time, two per cent above its target and higher than any other ambulance service in the country.

The service fell one per cent short of the same target for reaching all other life-threatening emergencies but came third nationally. Emergency calls were answered in under one second on average during the 12-month period.

In total, 96 per cent of calls were answered in under five seconds, one per cent above the average and the highest in the country.

Mr Marsh said the re-

By Richard Guttridge

sults were the 'testament to the hard working staff' of the trust and added that the level of care given to patients was 'second to none'.

"There is no doubt that 2014/15 was an incredibly challenging year for all ambulance services, with rapidly rising demand and continued delays at hospital which have a hugely adverse impact on our ability to get to patients," he said.

"Despite that, the fact that we have done so well is testament to the incredibly hard working staff of the trust. However, getting to patients quickly is only part of the story. The level of clinical care that our staff have given to the patients they have treated is second to none. In many respects this is far more important than speed of response.

"Whilst this is an excellent level of performance, we are in no way complacent and are the first to admit that we can make further changes to the service we deliver," added Mr Marsh. "We are continuing to move forward with developments that will improve still further the way we treat and support patients."

# Authors to discuss their favourite books

THREE authors will be visiting Dudley to help book lovers share their enthusiasm for reading.

The Readers' Afternoon event takes place on May 16 between 1 and 4pm at the Archives and Local History Centre. The visiting authors are Fiona Joseph, Samantha Hayes and Robert Ronsson.

Birmingham-born Fiona has written a biography of Beatrix Cadbury and a new novel about Cadbury workers caught up in the First World War. Samantha Hayes, from Warwickshire, writes psychological thrillers and Bewdley author Robert Ronsson's second novel Out of Such Darkness is set in the aftermath of 9/11.

Deborah Harkins, chief officer for libraries, archives and local history, said: "People can find out what authors read themselves and what inspires them as well as asking questions about their work."

Tickets £5 include afternoon tea. Call (01384) 812770.

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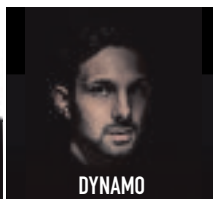
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# Blues on the move from veteran performer Steve



Seasick Steve delighted the Civic Hall crowd during his two-hour set that ended his UK tour

WHEN it comes to touring, veteran bluesman Seasick Steve saves the best for last.

He told a packed Civic Hall that he planned to end his UK tour at Wolverhampton because he knew 'it would rock'.

And the 74-year-old Californian came across as a genuine humble guy as he thanked his employers, ie the fans, for giving him a steady job. In a two-hour set, Steve Wold (he earned his nickname on discovering he and European ferry travel doesn't mix well) delighted a crowd with his homespun charm, rambling stories and bizarre homemade guitars.

These included a cigar box based model, the famous one made from two hubcaps and, best of all, the one-string washboard guitar. The latter once led

### REVIEW Seasick Steve, Wolverhampton Civic Hall - By Leon Burakowski

a critic to suggest he was using effects pedals to enhance his sound. But Steve, still much amused at the suggestion, demonstrated that his hi-tech effects came from sticking a thimble on his finger with a plaster and then riffing the hell out of his washday diddley bow.

Wearing his familiar plaid shirt and John Deere tractor cap, the long-bearded singer-guitarist made probably the loudest sound since Royal Blood were at the Civic. He and similarly hirsute drummer Dan Magnusson thrilled a multi-generation audience with blasts of bluesy

boogie, hillbilly stomps and punk like thrashes.

Another aspect of his sound was provided by fiddle player Georgina Leach, especially on the southern gothic of In Peaceful Dreams, all about grim goings-on in the backwoods.

The former hobo and busker showed a gentle side too, charming a girl a third his age with love song serenade Walking Man, keeping the audience spellbound with the poignant Treasures, and encoring with his favourite songs, Gentle On My Mind and folk ballad Silver Dagger.

Worthy of mention are support act My Baby, Steve's favourite new band. The Dutch blues trio fronted by Cato van Dyck held the attention of the full house with their blend of blues, psychedelic rock and dub reggae.

## star★extra TRAVEL

# ELVIS at The O2



London has been All Shook Up with the arrival of the largest ever Elvis collection in Europe. *Elvis at the O2: The Exhibition of His Life* tells the story of a music revolution and the lasting impact of his incredible legacy.

Fans can admire over 300 artefacts direct from the Presley family's treasured archives, some of which have never been seen outside of Graceland, Memphis, where Elvis lived most of his life.

The Elvis exhibition includes automobiles, personal items, iconic stage costumes, guitars, gold and platinum records and photography in addition to dazzling audio and video presentations.

Even the famous pool table Elvis played on with The Beatles will be on display and his wallet containing photos of a young Lisa Marie Presley along with his keys to Graceland.

It's a fascinating and personal insight into the music, movies and style of the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

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## Village to host music festival

PREPARATIONS are under way for a music festival near Stourbridge. The family Hagfest 2015 will be taking place in Hagley on July 4. Live music and events are being held between noon and 8pm on Hagley playing fields featuring top bands and performers sourced by Base Studios. There will be a mix of music styles from ska and rock to folk and pop.

A range of refreshments and beer tent will feature alongside funfair attractions. Event organizer Fran Evans says: "We want to create a fantastic family event which is all about music, food and fun." Go to the website [www.hagfest.co.uk](http://www.hagfest.co.uk) for further details.

## Fry's the limit for Midlands' top chippy



Jeevan Johal with father, Jazz Johal, at top chip shop Nemo's

FINDING Nemo's is going to be a whole lot easier after a Dudley chippy was named among the top 50 in the country — and best in the Midlands.

The fish and chip shop in Lake Street, Lower Gornal, has been given the award by Fry Magazine.

Staff at Nemo's were put under close scrutiny before it was deemed worthy of being named among the top 50 fish and chip shops in the country.

A mystery visitor popped in to sample the food and judge the customer service. Bosses also had to answer a series of questions about the business, even the fish was taken away to be subjected to the toughest quality inspection.

And after all that, the judges from Fry Magazine were so impressed they felt the Lower Gornal chippy was worthy of their accolade — and was the only fish and chip shop from our region to make the top 50.

It represents a major achievement for the husband and wife duo who run the family business, Jazz and Jazzy Johal, who have only been in the business for eight years. Before that, Jazz worked for car firm Rover and wife Jazzy for Tata steel. Mrs Johal said: "We were already five-star rated by Dudley's environmental team and have been for a number of years. "We always try to keep a really good, healthy premises."

## Opportunity to share views on social care

PEOPLE can share their views on adult social care during an event in Brierley Hill. The People's Network event, hosted by Healthwatch Dudley and Dudley Council, is on Wednesday, May 13, at Brierley Hill Methodist Church.

It provides residents the chance to learn more about ways to maintain their independence and will also look at ways services can be improved.

Matt Bowsher, chief officer for adult social care, said: "The People's Network is a brand new way in which the people of Dudley are setting their own agenda and telling us what we should focus on in adult social care. These events will happen every two months. We hope that the network will become a new place for people to share their stories and meet new people."

People can book their free place by calling 03000 111 001 or email [hello@healthwatchdudley.co.uk](mailto:hello@healthwatchdudley.co.uk) for further information.

# Man admits fake clothing con using famous names

**A MAN has admitted involvement in a fake clothing racket that could have cost major firms thousands of pounds in lost trade.**

Ian Guy pleaded guilty to seven charges linked to a counterfeit T-shirt business run from the garage of his home that sold worldwide.

Called Guys Tees, it is understood to have dealt with up to £260,000 worth of fake gar-

ments between 2010 and 2012. The racket was uncovered during an investigation spearheaded by Dudley Trading Standards that concluded with the appearance of 37-year-old Guy at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

He admitted knowingly carrying on a business for the fraudulent production, sale and supply of counterfeit goods and their packaging.

Guy, from John Corbett Drive, Stourbridge, further pleaded guilty to using signs identical to, or likely to be mistaken for, the registered

trademark of the Beatles, the Ramones and Jack Daniels on T-shirts and packaging.

He also pleaded guilty to using the trademark of Porsche and Yamaha Motor Europe to advertise goods for sale on eBay. The final charge involved an admission of having Fast T-Jet 2 and DTG K3 garment printers attached to computer equipment designed or adapted for the making of fake trademarks on goods or packaging.

Guy was remanded on bail until May 27 when he is expected to be sentenced.

## £750k invested to improve fleet

A GROWING Lye haulage business is investing £750,000 in improving its fleet.

Managing director of Andyfreight, Andrew Poutney, said that the investment included 15 new 13.5-metre long trailers from Lawrence David. "We have had six delivered so far and another nine are to come," he explained.

Andyfreight is also recruiting a new fleet manager and up to three more class one and two HGV drivers.

"We have also taken delivery of one new Scania and two new Mercedes trucks and have a MAN on order," added Mr Poutney.

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## More stalls are needed at hall

AN appeal has gone out for stall holders to run stands at this year's Armed Forces Day in Dudley.

The annual event is being held at Himley Hall and Park on June 28 to celebrate servicemen and women. Stall holders are encouraged to apply if they would like a trade stand at the event, from 11am to 5pm. Entertainment will include a zip line, climbing wall and and vintage fair-ground rides. There will also be a display of military vehicles.

Sarah Norman, chief executive at Dudley Council, said: "Armed Forces Day at Himley Hall and Park is one of the biggest events of the year which attracts thousands of people including current and ex-service men and women. It's a great day out for all the family."

To apply email [jessica.haines@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:jessica.haines@dudley.gov.uk) or call on (01384) 817449.

# Alcoholic stabbed pair of sisters in a frenzied attack

**A MAN who stabbed two Stourbridge sisters with a kitchen knife after pushing their 88-year-old grandmother to the floor has been jailed for ten and a half years.**

John Loveridge left Amy Brookes and his former partner Jessica Brookes needing surgery after lashing out with the foot long weapon in the horrific attack on October 31 in Oldswinford.

The 48-year-old then used the knife to slash his own throat and it was only the intervention of two police officers that saved his life, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Judge Nicholas Webb told Loveridge it was

clear he posed a serious risk of future harm to the public and he ruled he would only be allowed back onto the streets when he was considered safe by the parole board.

He extended the licence of Loveridge on his release from prison by a further five years and made a restraining order forbidding him from any future contact with the sisters or their grandmother.

He had attacked all three victims inside their own home in Oldswinford.

Loveridge stabbed Amy Brookes three times in the neck, arm and chest and she suffered a collapsed lung in the attack. Jessica Brookes, the mother of his child, sustained a stab wound to the throat and also received a serious hand injury as she tried to defend herself.

"You have a history of alcohol abuse," the Judge told Loveridge, who carried out the attack after a two-day drinking session.

"It is clear to me you are dangerous. A report says there is a chance of repeated offending by you and it is a report I agree with."

Loveridge of The Steps, Harvington, Evesham, admitted wounding Jessica and Amy Brookes with intent to cause them both grievous bodily harm. He further admitted assaulting their grandmother and possessing an offensive weapon.

Mr Duncan Craig, prosecuting, said Loveridge forced his way into the family home, pushed the grandmother to the floor and stabbed the sisters.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said Loveridge was full of remorse for what he did.

## Cost of missed appointments

MORE than 165,000 health appointments were missed across the Black Country in a year.

Tens of thousands of outpatients failed to turn up at hospital and community clinics in 2014, wasting millions of pounds.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act show there were 58,400 occasions where patients failed to turn up or cancelled at Wolverhampton's New Cross from January 1 to December 31, 2014.

At Walsall Manor there were 44,655 times where people did not attend and 40,719 missed appointments at Russells Hall in Dudley during the same period.

At Sandwell there were 22,993 did not attend bookings recorded by the health trust over the 12 months.

A failure to attend an appointment means in a loss of income to the trusts, which could have been at least £12 million in the Black Country. Hospitals and clinics get paid by the Government for each patient seen.

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## High ya! Fun day attracts the crowds



Vince Trapani hands stilt walker Sophie Hubble an ice cream

ALL the fun of the fair came to a park in Dudley for a Bank Holiday fun day.

Stilt walkers, bands, a bouncy castle, tombola and climbing wall were all part of the celebrations at Dudley's Buffery Park.

Organisers hailed the event a great success, with up to 4,000 people turning out on Bank Holiday Monday. The day was organised by the Friends of Buffery Park group, which works to preserve the park.

A stage was set up by Black Country Community Radio with performances by bands including Empty Can, creators of the Black Country anthem. There was also a display of dogs from the K9 rescue charity.

The Friends group's secretary Lynn Horton said: "It is the biggest event and the biggest amount of people we have ever had. We were really happy with how it went. We could not have wished for a better day. The weather was fantastic and it was just a very happy day."

"Everybody liked it who was there. We did it for the people who live around that area."

## Borough bucks trend for whooping cough

CASES of whooping cough in the West Midlands have almost doubled during the past two years, new figures reveal. But the number of people diagnosed has fallen in Dudley.

Whooping cough — a bacterial infection of the lungs and airways — affects all ages but newborns and infants under three months of age are at highest risk.

During 2014 there have been 135 cases in the West Midlands — 39 of them in the Black Country and Staffordshire. This is up by 42 per cent compared with 2013 figures, when there were a total of 95 cases.

Health chiefs have urged pregnant women to have a vaccination to protect themselves and their unborn babies. It protects the baby in the first weeks of life as the mother passes immunity on to her child, protecting the youngster until they receive their first vaccination at two months old.

The number of people being diagnosed has fallen in Dudley from 10 cases to four.

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Take That preview  
– Page 27



**Thea Gilmore**  
See Page 27

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## Chris de Burgh



Wednesday, 7.30pm  
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Be among the first to hear live renditions of Chris de Burgh's 20th studio album 'The Hands of Man' that captures his lyrical style but with a nod to 21st century techniques. Visit [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## Andy Parsons



Saturday, 8pm  
 Gatehouse, Stafford

Andy's fifth show 'Live and Unleashed - But Naturally Cautious' sees the star of BBC2's 'Mock The Week' and 'Live At The Apollo' hitting the road again delivering more sharp comedy. [www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

## Beyond The Barricades 2015



Saturday, 7.30pm  
 Grand Theatre, W'ton

Recreating original musical hit songs with amazing authenticity, this cast of past principal performers from Les Miserables present a blockbusting two-hour show. Visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

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 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Twenty One Pilots**  
 Wed at 7pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

**Ultimate Genesis**  
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**The Smiths Indeed**  
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 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**The Vamps**  
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 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**Dr Hook**  
 Thu at 7pm, £27.50 - £29.50  
 The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH. Call 01902 552106

**Voca People**  
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 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

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**Nizlopi**  
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**Brewwood Acoustic Club - Bill Caddick**  
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**Fashionably Late by Ginny Davis**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £14  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £14  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

**Ghost**  
 Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £21.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**Pygmalion**  
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 The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

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**Sister Act**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £15 - £18  
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**The Printmakers**  
 Sat at 8pm, £10 - £12  
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

**Birmingham Cabaret Festival**  
 Thu at 8pm, £10  
 The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY. Call 0121 200 1892

## COMEDY

**Andy Parsons Live and Unleashed**  
 Sat at 8pm, £15 - £15.75  
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

**Paul Foot**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £13.50 - £13.75  
 The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

**Jack Dee's Help Desk**  
 Wed at 6.45pm, £18.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**Henning Wehn**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £14.50 - £16.75  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

## OTHER EVENTS

**Haden Hill House Anniversary**  
 Sun at 2pm - 5.30pm, Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU. Call 01384 569444

**The Sooty Show presents**  
 Sat, Sun at 9.30am - 4pm, £11.95 - £16.25  
 Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU. Call 0844 880 7667

**Guy Day's: Hints & Tips**  
 Tue, Wed at 11am, £23  
 Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE. Call 01952 852100

**Evening Scenic Specials**  
 Sat at 7pm, £8 - £13  
 Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR. Call 01299 403816

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Take That relish their threedom



Everything Changes — Take That soar over the heads of their fans in a spectacular concert, picture by Andrew Whittom

AND then there were three... the new trio version of Take That promise a spectacular series of shows at the Genting Arena, starting on Monday.

Gary Barlow, Mark Owen and Howard Donald will play a total of seven concerts at the mega venue near Birmingham, also including Tuesday, Thursday, next Friday and Saturday, before returning on June 22 and 23.

Take That are the UK's most successful live act ever.

They have had eight number one albums, 15 number one singles, sold over 30 million albums, won six Ivor Novello awards, eight BRITs and sold over seven million concert tickets.

Minus Jason Orange and Robbie Williams, the band have returned with aptly-titled new album III and

the hit These Days. They are embarking on a 24-date tour, four years after their record-breaking Progress Live wowed their fans.

It will be worth turning up in time to catch support act, the BRIT-nominated Ella Henderson, who hit the number one spot with her debut album Chapter One and had hits with the singles Ghost and Glow.

## Thea haunted by her songs



*'I had things to say so I found a way to say them'*

IT will surely one day be a Trivial Pursuit question: Name the UK artist who first hit the top 40 with her 14th album? It was Thea Gilmore with her 2013 release *Regardless*.

Thea's slow burning career has seen her garner more and more fans since she first emerged as an 18-year-old with her debut *Burning Dorothy*.

Now, 17 years on, album number 15 *Ghosts & Graffiti* is a compilation of four new songs, alongside six newly-recorded versions of previous favourites and her recent run of radio hits.

The album features collaborations with fantasy writer Neil Gaiman, cult New York singer-songwriter Joan As Policewoman (Joan Wasser), folk-rockers The Waterboys, folk legend Joan Baez, punk poet John Cooper Clarke, Scottish singer-songwriter King Creosote (Kenny Anderson) and acclaimed Mancunian band I Am Kloot.

In General Election year, she also nails her political beliefs to the mast with *My Voice*, performed with Billy Bragg.

Thea, who starts her UK tour at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday, said: "I didn't set out to make so many albums. There was no master plan, I just had things to say so I found a way to say them."

Now I see every record as a snapshot of that particular time in my life. It's like a haunting, the songs are the ghosts of my past."

Tickets cost £24.50 with fees. For further details see the [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) website.

### Little Voice will be heard again at Rep

TWO of Britain's favourite soap actors are in a new production of Jim Cartwright's popular play *The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice*, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from May 15 to 30.

The Olivier award-winning play about the shy but hugely talented Little Voice stars Coronation Street's Vicky Entwistle and Chris Gascayne, who played Janice Battersby and Peter Barlow. In the demanding role of LV is Nancy Sullivan from the West End production of *Les Misérables*. Vicky Entwistle plays her blowsy mum and Chris Gascayne is agent Ray Say, who wants to cash in on LV's impersonations of such divas as Judy Garland and Shirley Bassey.

### Ray patched up to play new date

AMERICAN soft rock specialists Dr Hook, featuring iconic eyepatch wearing frontman Ray Sawyer, return to live work following Ray's accident that postponed the band's March *Hooked on Hits* tour. The 78-year-old broke his arm in a fall.

One of the rescheduled shows includes the Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, May 14. The now solo Dennis Locorriere was the main vocalist for most of the band's hits, but Ray Sawyer — who lost an eye in a car accident in 1967 — also contributed vocals, most memorably on *Cover Of The Rolling Stone*. Expect to hear all the hits, including Sylvia's Mother.

### Cabaret festival at pub theatre

BIRMINGHAM'S first cabaret festival is going to take place during the second half of May.

The Old Joint Stock theatre pub at Temple Row West in the city centre is the venue for acts ranging from comedy to circus via music, drag and burlesque.

It kicks off with Edinburgh Fringe hit Boris and Sergey's Vaudevilian Adventure, an adults only puppet show, on May 15. Other highlights will include gentleman juggler Matt Ricardo on May 16, Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer on May 22 and The Weatherman by Kiki Lovechild on May 27. For full line up see [www.oldjointstock.co.uk](http://www.oldjointstock.co.uk) website.

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There can't be many of you who haven't passed by The Dudley Arms near Himley at some time or another on your travels along the busy A449.



steaks, salads, locally made pies, home-made curries, traditional cod and chips with mushy peas, vegetarian options and many more.

Over the years they have built up a superb reputation for catering for both large and small parties ie funerals, wakes, birthday parties, social groups and societies, which can be held in their various semi-private areas within the pub. For larger gatherings they have, what has been described by previous customers as "The Hidden Gem of the Midlands", an amazingly unique Function Suite which is ideal for weddings, anniversaries, christenings etc. The room itself, with its spiral staircases and tiffany pendants, has to be seen to be appreciated. It is completely self-contained with its own separate bar and includes less-abled facilities, a large car park and outside patio area.

Why not call in and see for yourself or give them a ring on 01902 892223.



What a lot of readers may not be aware of is The Dudley Arms, which is renowned for its fantastic Carvery, offers so much. They are becoming increasingly popular with their main menu and fabulous specials board which is served all day every day offering everyone's favourites; ribeye

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Silk Roots restaurant and the Old Mitre Inn, on Bursnips Road, Essington



Larger parties are catered for among the 160 covers



The restaurant is also set out to allow privacy for its diners



One of the eatery's delicious offerings



There are 10 combination dishes to choose from

# Silk appeal firmly rooted in word of mouth on this handy eatery

**INDIAN** restaurant proprietors will tell you they rely on word of mouth to attract custom. It's a policy that is working very well for Nazrul Islam.

He has a loyal fanbase, having built up a reputation at Balti Nights in Willenhall, and these customers have helped spread the word since the move to the Old Mitre pub just under a year ago.

Located along Bursnips Road, Essington, on the main stretch of the A462, the eatery could not be more ideally placed for passing trade and is perfect for diners travelling from the Wolverhampton, Bloxwich, Walsall and Cannock areas.

A back-to-back winner of the best Midlands restaurant title while at Balti Nights, Nazrul has more than 15 years experience in the restaurant trade and is keen on

By Mark Shipp

helping out good causes, too, with around £40,000 raised over the years for children's charities and Acorns Hospice.

"We worked hard for 15 years or so, so when we came here, a lot of people followed us," said Nazrul. "I am honoured by the support shown by customers."

After buying the premises from Enterprise Inns, Nazrul quickly set about transforming it into Silk Roots and around 90 people turned out for its opening. The Old Mitre still stands, however, and serves traditional pub fare. In fact, Nazrul is keen to bring back its glory days.

"The Old Mitre had a good reputation and we want to bring that back," he said.

Tastefully decorated, Silk Roots caters for 160 diners, with corporate bookings and private parties accepted. Parking is plenti-

ful, with spaces across the road in addition to the restaurant's own car park.

The restaurant can be accessed via the pub, and diners can sit with a drink while waiting for a table. Pub lunches are also served.

## Appetite

My partner and I ventured on a midweek night and after a drink to whet the appetite, poppadums were the order of the day. This led to a novelty for me, as, while these came with the traditional dips, it is usually assumed one knows what these are. Here, staff took the time to explain what all these dips were – a pleasant, personal touch that only added to the experience.

A mixed starter was dished up for us next, with lamb chops, kebabs and bhajis, which, while tasty, only served to fill us up before the mains arrived. We gave them a good go,

though, and again there was an extensive offering. My own choice was Combination Number 9, or chicken mital and chicken tikka malay to give it its proper name. The medium dishes complemented each other well, while my partner's option was the chicken passanda, creamy and served with ground almonds and pistachios.

The beauty is, with the starters included, the meals alone would amount to just £20, so despite a bulging waistline, there's not a big dent left in the bank balance.

Alas, there was no room to choose from the dessert list that included apple pie and chocolate fudge cake.

In the run-up to the restaurant's first anniversary, diners can enjoy four courses from the a la carte menu for £9.95 on a Sunday and a Monday. There is a takeaway and delivery service. To book, call 01922 276900 or visit [www.silkrootsrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.silkrootsrestaurant.co.uk)

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## CHOICE



Katherine Jenkins

**VE Day 70: A Party to Remember**  
**BBC1, 8.30pm**

Chris Evans hosts a live concert from Horse Guards Parade in London as part of the national celebrations for the 70th anniversary of VE Day. Among those taking the stage are Alfie Boe, Elaine Paige, Chas and Dave, Collabro, Gregory Porter and Katherine Jenkins, performing songs that reflect the mood of the nation at the time. Other singers, some of who are backed by a live big band, are Alexander Armstrong, Jamelia, Pixie Lott and Rebecca Ferguson, plus Status Quo. There are dance tributes from Diversity and the Strictly professionals, and readings from actors including Adrian Lester, Bernard Cribbins, Ian Lavender, Jane Horrocks, Julia Sawalha, Laurence Fox and Nigel Havers.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Athletics: Great CityGames Manchester. Coverage of the seventh staging of the event. **3.00** Final Score. **5.10** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying – Highlights.

**6.20 BBC News.****6.35 Regional Programme.**

**6.45 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present the general knowledge quiz. Celebrity teams Henry Kelly and Matthew Kelly, Tom O'Connor and Jenny Powell, Nina Myskow and Gyles Brandreth and Ulrika Jonsson and Nick Hancock try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.

**7.35 Atlantis.** When Jason is caught by Pasiphae's troops, the heroes know they must do all they can to save him before he is lost for ever, so Aeson undertakes a mission to rescue his son.

**8.20 The National Lottery Live.** Jenni Falconer introduces the results of this week's draws, with Madness frontman Suggs on hand to press the button and release the balls.

**8.30 VE Day 70: A Party to Remember.**

Chris Evans hosts a live concert from Horse Guards Parade in London as part of the national celebrations for the 70th anniversary of VE Day. Among those taking the stage are Alfie Boe, Elaine Paige, Chas and Dave, Collabro, Gregory Porter and Katherine Jenkins, performing songs that reflect the mood of the nation at the time. Other singers, some of who are backed by a live big band, are Alexander Armstrong, Jamelia, Pixie Lott and Rebecca Ferguson, plus Status Quo. There are dance tributes from Diversity and the Strictly professionals.

**10.25 BBC News; Weather.**

**10.45 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Crystal Palace v Manchester United at Selhurst Park and Hull City v Burnley at the KC Stadium; National Lottery Update.

**12.10 Film: DOA.** (1988) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.10 Film: The Story of GI Joe.** (1945) **8.00** How We Won the War. (R) **8.30** How We Won the War. (R) **9.00** The Lancaster: Britain's Flying Past. (R) **10.00** Wellington Bomber. (R) **11.00** Churchill: The Nation's Farewell. (R) **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Hitchcock's Leading Actors: Talking Pictures. **2.50** Film: Vertigo. (1958) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **4.55** Flog It! (R) **5.25** Newsnight Special. **5.55** Gardeners' World. (R)

**6.25 Dad's Army.** Last-ever episode of the wartime comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. Last in the series. (R)

**7.00 BBC Young Dancer 2015.** Zoe Ball and Darcey Bussell present the grand final of the talent search from Sadler's Wells. Six dancers have made it through to the last show, and each will perform a solo piece from their repertoire, a duet and a new piece devised for them by some of the UK's leading choreographers. The judging panel is made up of leading directors and choreographers Matthew Bourne, Mavin Kho, Wayne McGregor, Tamara Rojo, Kenrick Sandy and Alistair Spalding. Last in the series.

**9.00 Some People with Jokes.** Members of the public who are 60 years of age and over tell their favourite jokes to the camera. (R)

**9.15 Film: Salmon Fishing in the Yemen.** (2011) A British fisheries expert is recruited by an Arab sheikh, who believes the sport of salmon fishing can enrich the lives of his people – if only there were fish to catch. The scientist is soon undertaking an ambitious scheme to introduce salmon to the desert, and finds his own government have an interest in the project. Comedy drama based on Paul Torday's novel, with Evan McGregor, Emily Blunt and Kristin Scott Thomas.

**10.55 QI XL.** Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz with a difference, with Josh Widdicombe, Phill Jupitus, Katherine Ryan and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of K-Folk. (R)

**11.40 Film: The Way.** (2010) Comedy drama, starring Martin Sheen, Deborah Kara Unger and James Nesbitt.

**1.45** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Doc Martin. (R) **2.45** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.45** Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) Comedy, starring Jeff Goldblum. **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

**6.00 New You've Been Framed! Reloaded.** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers in this special extended episode.

**7.00 Ninja Warrior UK.** Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shepherd, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK.

**8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the latest round of the nationwide talent search. A wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judging panel Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams with their unusual skills – with a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance up for grabs at the end of the series.

**9.15 Play to the Whistle.** Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, comedian Bob Mortimer and Emmerdale star Natalie Anderson join team captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh on the comedy sports quiz.

**10.00 ITV News; Weather.**

**10.15 Film: American Gangster.** (2007) Fact-based crime drama about 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas and the cop who tried to bring him down in the face of police corruption. Starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe.

**1.00 Jackpot247.** **1.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **2.40** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Challenge Wankar. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Lingfield Park and Haydock Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.10 The Simpsons.** A terrorism scare prompts the people of Springfield to hire a British security consultant, who installs surveillance cameras everywhere. (R)

**6.35 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 For the Love of Cars.** Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead turn their attention to the 1980s "hot hatch" – city run-a-rounds, such as the Volkswagen Golf GTI and Peugeot 205, which became must-haves for boy racers. They help transform a Golf GTI Mk 1 into a rally car and meet hatchback fanatics to discover why people are so passionate about these vehicles and how, for some, they defined an era. (R)

**8.00 The World's Most Extreme.** An exploration of the most dangerous rivers on the planet, including the Panama Canal and the Congo River, where white-water rafters try to beat undefeated rapids.

**9.00 Film: Robin Hood.** (2010) An archer fighting in Richard the Lionheart's crusading army returns home to England and assumes the identity of a nobleman killed in battle. His new-found status draws him into a dangerous conflict with members of the newly crowned King John's court, and a traitorous knight plots to aid the French in conquering England. Ridley Scott's medieval adventure, starring Russell Crowe.

**11.45 Lee Mack Live.** The comedian's live show, performed at London's Bloomsbury Theatre, in which he touches on bizarre subjects, from pasty marketing to grandmothers snoring a powdered dessert. (R)

**12.50 Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.45** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.45** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.45** Film: Attack on the Iron Coast. (1965) **2.35** Film: Columbo: A Trace of Murder. (1997) **4.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.30** Britain's Horror Homes. (R)

**6.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred's first case sees them in a Brighton health spa as they search for assets to seize in pursuit of a £200,000 debt. Following a stand-off, they devise a way to work with the owner and her professional advisers to come up with a solution. Later, Graham reveals his softer side when he revisits a woman who defaulted on a debt payment plan. (R)

**7.25 5 News Weekend.**

**7.30 NCIS.** Kidnappers strike on Halloween, wounding a marine sergeant and snatching his daughter – leaving the team members wondering why anyone would try to extort money from someone on such a modest salary. As the agents begin searching for a motive, Abby surprises everyone by turning up at the lab in a revealing figure-dress costume. (R)

**8.25 NCIS.** The team joins forces with military investigators to ascertain whether terrorists were responsible for an explosion at a golf course in which a marine colonel was killed. (R)

**9.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A body is found in the woods, covered in chrome paint. A shard of glass leads Sara and Julie to two rich brothers, who are fighting over their father's collection of classic cars.

**10.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A criminal performing community service is suspected of murdering two people – but even after he is caught, the killings continue. (R)

**11.05 The NCIS Movie: Judgement Day.** The funeral of a special agent in Los Angeles leads Shepard on a covert mission to finish some classified business she began a decade previously in Europe. (R)

**12.55 SuperCasino.** **3.10** Autopsy: The Last Hours of River Phoenix. (R) **4.00** World's Busiest Hotel. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00** Top Gear **8.05** Don't Tell the Bride **9.05** Live at the Apollo **9.35** Happy Valley **10.35** Family Guy **12.45** Murder in Successville **1.15** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **1.45** Live at the Apollo **2.15** Don't Tell the Bride **3.15** Tatu **4.00** Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **12.45** Country at the BBC **12.15** Neil Diamond: Radio 2 Electric Prom **1.20** Wild China **2.20** Top of the Pops: 1980 **3.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **4.00** Close

**ITV2**

**11.00** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Celebrity Catchphrase **2.20** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **4.10** Mr Bean **5.15** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **7.20** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent

**ITV3**

**11.10** Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **1.10** Film: The Mirror Crack'd (1980) **3.20** Wycliffe **4.25** Film: Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Inspector Morse **1.20** Wire in the Blood **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**11.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Monte Carlo ePrix qualifying session. **12.15** Prawn Slars **1.05** Counting Cars **2.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Monte Carlo ePrix. **4.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights **5.35** Prawn Slars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Shed and Buried **8.00** Film: Goldfinger (1964) **10.20** Film: Basic (2003) **12.25** Film: Age of Heroes (2011) **2.20** Whisker Wars **2.45** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** Film: St. Trinian's (2007) **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Jane the Virgin **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Limitless (2011) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** Rule Tube: Animal Madness **2.30** Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2013 **3.15** 2 Broke Girls **3.40** How I Met Your Mother **4.25** Make It or Break It **5.00** Film: 4

**11.00** Fixed Bayonets! (1951) **1.00** Bride Wars (2009) **2.45** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **4.30** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **6.30** Congo (1995) **9.00** Priest (2011) **11.05** Scarify Movie 2 (2001) **12.20** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **2.05** Flirting with Disaster (1996) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



**Alexander Armstrong**

**Sunday Night at the Palladium**  
**ITV, 8pm**  
Actor, comedian and singer Alexander Armstrong hosts the variety show from the West End theatre, introducing music by violinist Andre Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, and two of America's hottest singing talents – All About That Bass star Meghan Trainor and Josh Groban, whose classical-style voice has helped him shift more than 25 million albums. There's also comedy from Lee Nelson and Rod Woodward, hot moves from Ethiopian acrobatics AAC Boys and dancers Quest Crew, and an energetic performance from the cast of West End musical The Commitments.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** VE Day 70: The Nation Remembers. **1.30** Sunday Politics. **2.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.15** Shark. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix – Highlights.  
**6.30** **BBC News.**  
**6.50** **Regional Programme.**  
**7.00** **Countryfile.** Adam Henson is at the Food and Farming Awards in Bristol, where he announces the winner of the first Countryfile Farming Hero and also talks about his own hero, Robert Bakewell, the father of selective breeding. The rest of the team celebrates other farming pioneers past and present, including tractor inventor Harry Ferguson, the men who set up the RSPCA and a man whose efforts gave farmers a voice and helped feed the nation when it was needed the most. With Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison, Anita Rani and Tom Heap.  
**8.00** **The British Academy Television Awards.** Graham Norton hosts the annual ceremony celebrating the best of British TV, held at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in London. Shows battling for recognition include Happy Valley, Line of Duty, The Missing and Marvellous, which all have three nominations each, while the entertainment performance category sees Graham himself competing against Ant and Dec, Claudia Winkelman for Strictly and Leigh Francis – better known as alter ego Keith Lemon – for Celebrity Juice. Channel 4 News anchor Jon Snow will be awarded the Bafta Fellowship, celebrating more than 40 years in journalism and broadcasting.  
**10.00** **BBC News.**  
**10.20** **Regional Programme.**  
**10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Chelsea v Liverpool at Stamford Bridge and Manchester City v Queens Park Rangers at the Etihad Stadium.  
**11.30** **Film: The Mothman Prophecies.** (2002) A journalist investigates reports of encounters with a moth-like creature that his wife claimed to see before she died. Thriller, with Richard Gere.  
**1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.05** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** MOTD2 Extra. **2.00** Equestrian: Badminton Horse Trials. **4.00** The Olympic Journey: Born Winners. Gabby Logan investigates whether a person's DNA decides if they will be a winner. **4.30** Athletics: Great Manchester Run Highlights. **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.00** **VE Day 70: The Nation Remembers – Highlights.** Today's events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day, beginning with a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, followed by a parade of veterans and a fly-past.  
**7.00** **Britain's Greatest Generation.** The extraordinary stories of some of the British men and women who fought or lived through the Second World War, now in their nineties or older. (R) **8.00** **Hunters of the South Seas.** Will Millard heads to the Trobriand Islands, 150 miles off the east coast of Papua New Guinea, where he discovers a trading network called the Kula Ring. Last in the series.  
**9.00** **Wellington: The Iron Duke Unmasked.** First in a two-part portrait of the Duke of Wellington, with Richard E Grant starring in a series of dramatic reconstructions aiming to discover the man behind the public image.  
**10.00** **Modern Times: For Richer For Poorer.** Every year, half-a-million new businesses are launched in Britain and 40 per cent of them will be run by couples. Cameras follow four of these brave, enterprising twosomes.  
**11.00** **W1A.** Anna is crowned as the Head of Better, and the staff are given the task of announcing the concept to the world at large – which is fine, except none of them know what Better means. (R) **11.30** **Film: Smart People.** (2008) A misanthropic professor's self-absorption threatens his faltering relationship with a former student. Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid, Ellen Page and Thomas Haden Church.  
**1.00** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** The Unforgettable Hattie Jacques. (R) **1.05** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.50** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.05** **Film: Mannequin** (1987) Fantasy comedy, starring Andrew McCarthy. **4.50** The Chase. (R) **5.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **6.50** **Regional Programme; Weather.** **7.00** **ITV News; Weather.** **7.15** **Celebrity Squares.** Noughts-and-crosses game show, with guests Jonathan Ross, Laura Whitmore, Tony Law, Gabby Logan, Nina Conti, Union J and Shappi Khorsandi. Warwick Davis hosts.  
**8.00** **Sunday Night at the Palladium.** Actor, comedian and singer Alexander Armstrong hosts the variety show from the West End theatre, introducing music by violinist Andre Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, and two of America's hottest singing talents – All About That Bass star Meghan Trainor and Josh Groban, whose classical-style voice has helped him shift more than 25 million albums. There's also comedy from Lee Nelson and Rod Woodward, hot moves from Ethiopian acrobatics AAC Boys and dancers Quest Crew, and an energetic performance from the cast of West End musical The Commitments.  
**9.00** **Home Fires.** Drama about a wartime Women's Institute group. As Frances and Joyce battle for leadership, Pat struggles with her unhappy marriage and Miriam tries to stop David enlisting.  
**10.00** **ITV News; Weather.** **10.35** **Perspectives: In Charlie Chaplin's Footsteps.** Monty Python star Terry Jones, a long-time fan of silent comedy, offers a personal appraisal of the man who arguably changed the face of film comedy in the 1920s.  
**11.35** **Premiership Rugby Union.** **12.30** The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** **Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules.** (2011) Children's comedy, with Zachary Gordon. **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00** **Three in a Bed.** At the Maypole Inn Pub and B&B in Skipton, North Yorkshire, former Butlins stand-up comic Malcolm Kirkbourne and his wife Sue don't believe in unnecessary frills. Their rivals are perfectionists Ianroy and Melanie McCall of the luxury Wootton Park estate in Warwickshire, and retired Navy Wren Mary Lloyd-Wright and her stepdaughter Cherry Friscott, who own Hooks Cottage in the Dartmoor countryside. The week of competitive hosting features unwelcome surprises beneath the sheets, fancy bottles of water and a stand-off between guests and wildlife.  
**8.00** **For the Love of Cars.** Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead enter the world of micro cars, driving a 1960 Messerschmitt, 1960s bubble cars and the ill-fated Sinclair C5, as well as restoring a Fiat 500.  
**9.00** **Film: Prometheus.** (2012) Premiere. A spacecraft is sent to another world, following clues left in ancient artefacts, in search of aliens that may have created the human race. However, the explorers on board discover the extraterrestrials may not be the benevolent creatures they imagined, while the company funding the expedition has its own agenda. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller and Alien prequel, starring Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron and Idris Elba.  
**11.25** **Film: Piranha 3DD.** (2012) The opening of a water park is turned into a massacre when man-eating fish start feasting on the visitors. Comedy horror, starring Danielle Panabaker and Matt Bush.  
**1.00** 24 Hours in A&E. (R) **1.55** **Film: Naalu Pennungal.** (2007) **3.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mio Mao. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roco and Gustard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Toby's Travelling Circus. **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** **Film: National Security.** (2003) Action comedy, starring Martin Lawrence and Steve Zahn. **3.25** **Film: Big Momma's House.** (2000) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20** **Film: Spider-Man 3.** (2007) An alien parasite causes the web-slinging crimefighter's dark side to surface as he seeks revenge on his uncle's killer. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst.  
**8.00** **Film: Grown Ups.** (2010) Five friends reunite for the funeral of their high-school basketball coach. However, when they discover they have all acquired the problems and responsibilities that come with adulthood, they decide to spend a weekend at a lake house in a bid to recapture their childhood. Comedy, with Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, David Spade and Rob Schneider.  
**10.00** **Film: Safe.** (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal families want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan.  
**11.45** **Film: Soldiers of Fortune.** (2012) Premiere. A group of wealthy thrill-seekers pay big bucks to experience a military-style mission. Action adventure, starring Christian Slater.  
**1.35** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. The observational documentary returns, this time giving an insight into the work of doctors at Putneymead Group Medical Practice in Putney, south-west London. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth 7.10 Top Gear **7.55** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **10.00** Tatat! **11.25** Family Guy **12.10** Murder in Successville **12.40** American Dad! **1.00** Family Guy **1.25** Russell Howard's Good News **1.50** Murder in Successville **2.20** In Deep **2.40** Tatat! **4.00** Close  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Secrets of the Universe: Great Scientists in Their Own Words **8.00** Horizon: Who's Afraid of a Big Black Hole? **9.00** Horizon: 40 Years on the Moon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Explosions: How We Shock the World **11.30** The Joy of the Guitar Riff **12.30** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **1.30** BBC Young Dancer 2015 **2.30** The Sky at Night **3.00** Horizon: Who's Afraid of a Big Black Hole? **4.00** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.15** Take Me Out **1.45** Meghan Trainor: The Hot Desk **2.00** Film: Homebound Bound: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **3.45** Film: Richie Rich (1994) **5.40** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! Best of the Best **9.00** Film: The Dark Knight (2008) **12.05** Film: American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**12.00** Film: Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) **1.30** Lewis **3.35** Wycliffe **4.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Wycliffe **11.10** Film: Hamlet (1990) **1.50** Secret Smile **3.05** Judge Judy **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale  
**ITV4**  
**11.00** Live British Touring Car Championship. Round three from Thruxton. **6.30** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.30** Pawn Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: National Lampoon's European Vacation (1985) **11.05** Film: Bowfinger (1999) **1.00** River Monsters **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.00** Made in Chelsea **1.00** Revenge **2.00** Jane the Virgin **3.00** The Goldbears **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory **11.10** Film: Jennifer's Body (2009) **1.15** Virtually Famous **2.00** Rude Tube: Ultimate Champions **2.55** Rules of Engagement **3.45** Hollyoaks  
**Film4**  
**11.00** At the Earth's Core (1976) **1.00** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **2.50** Rio (2011) **4.40** City of Ember (2008) **6.30** Runaway Jury (2003) **9.00** The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **10.55** Killing Them Softly (2012) **12.50** A Civil Action (1998) **3.15** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Death Sentence, Channel 5, 10.55pm**  
Mild-mannered executive Nick Hume's perfect, peaceful life is destroyed when his oldest son is killed by a street gang. Hume becomes determined to see those responsible pay for their crimes, gaining the sympathy and support of a homicide detective working on the case. However, she begins to question her position as Hume's methods of retribution become increasingly violent. Thriller, starring Kevin Bacon, Kelly Preston and Garrett Hedlund. (2007)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Margin Call, BBC1, 11.15pm**  
A bitter executive is dismissed from an investment bank, but plans his revenge by handing secret information on the company's fortunes to a junior analyst. When the information is decoded, it reveals that the company is on the brink of a devastating financial crisis, a revelation that is soon spreading throughout the workforce. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Paul Bettany and Jeremy Irons. (2011)



Cape Fear, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**FRIDAY**  
**Cape Fear, ITV, 10.40pm**  
A psychopathic rapist is released from prison after 14 years and plots revenge on the defence attorney he blames for his imprisonment. Subjecting the lawyer and his family to a terrifying campaign of intimidation, he uses his knowledge of the law to stay untouchable. Martin Scorsese's thriller remake, starring Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte and Jessica Lange. (1991)

**I Love You, Man, BBC1, 11.50pm**  
As he prepares for his wedding, estate agent Peter realises there is something missing – a male friend, which he doesn't have, to be his best man. His quest for a suitable candidate leads him to laid-back, hard-drinking Sydney and the pair become inseparable buddies – to the horror of Peter's fiancée. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Jason Segel. (2009)

**(500) Days of Summer, Channel 4, 12.25am**  
A man looks back on his 500-day-long relationship with the woman he loves, remembering events in a random order. Romantic comedy, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel. (2009)

Honouring the best in British television

Can the TV Baftas outshine their cinematic counterpart? Well, one man adding a little movie glamour to the proceedings is Benedict Cumberbatch, who is now a force to be reckoned with in Hollywood following his Oscar nomination for playing Alan Turing in The Imitation Game.

He's since received his third Leading Actor Bafta nod (and sixth in total) for the role that first gained him international recognition – that of enigmatic super-detective Holmes in Sherlock, the modern reworking of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous tales.

He's up against James Nesbitt for The Missing, and two extraordinary performances as real-life people from Toby Jones and Jason Watkins. Watkins was outstanding in The Lost Honour of Christopher Jeffries, but the winner should be Jones, whose take on clown and football mascot Neil Baldwin in Marvellous was arguably the TV highlight of 2014.

The Leading Actress category will be very hotly contested, with first-time nominee Georgina Campbell in the running for surprise hit Murdered by

My Boyfriend, alongside Keeley Hawes for Line of Duty.

But then the big guns come out. Sheridan Smith has been hotly tipped for her performance in Cilla, which was great – until you realise she didn't look or sound like Cilla Black, the person she was playing.

So, if there's any justice, it will be Sarah Lancashire who wins for her career-best turn in Happy Valley, which would also be her second win in as many years – in 2014 she took home the Supporting Actress trophy for her work in Last Tango in Halifax.

Other luminaries in the running include the ceremony's host, Graham Norton, for his BBC chat show, as well as Matt Berry (Toast of London), Hugh Bonneville (W1A), Claudia Winkleman (Strictly Come Dancing) and Stephen Rea (The Honourable Woman).

Watch out too for Olivia Colman, who is nominated for the fourth consecutive year, this time in the Female Performance in a Comedy Programme for Rev.

We do, however, already know the identity of one winner. The name 'Jon

Snow' may now be synonymous with a Game of Thrones character, but the real Jon Snow, is the Channel 4 newsreader who has spent the past 40 years covering globally important stories, will receive the Bafta Fellowship.

This grand award has previously been handed to the likes of Julie Walters, Michael Palin and David Attenborough, so Snow is in great company.

"I am genuinely overwhelmed by the honour of being awarded a Bafta Fellowship," says Snow. "There is no greater recognition than that of one's own industry."

"I thought at first Bafta must have the wrong Snow... There are several of my cousins they could have chosen. I'm genuinely looking forward to the ceremony. I think my daughters have concluded I've finally done something cool!"

Expect tears and laughter throughout the night as British TV's great and good give each other a good old pat on the back, but try not to get too upset if your personal favourite goes home empty handed.



The British Academy Television Awards, Sunday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Episodes, BBC2, 10pm**  
Showtime's TV-industry satire returns for a fourth season, and with their hopes of a new life overseas now on the back burner, Sean (Stephen Mangan) and Beverly (Tamsin Greig) are dragged back to Hollywood to make six more episodes of the previously cancelled Pucks. It's risen, like Jesus. If Jesus was a sitcom that no one watched,' says the show's leading actress Morning Randolph (Mircea Monroe). Meanwhile, Matt (Matt LeBlanc) attends a funeral and discovers that the deceased – the man who looked after his money – had been scamming him for years, to the tune of 32 million dollars, no less. Finally, Carol (Kathleen Rose Perkins) lobbies to run the network after discovering the identity of her new boss.

**TUESDAY**  
**Big Brother: Timebomb Live Launch, Channel 5, 9pm**  
It's back – and it's going to be a blast. As if sharing a house with a group of complete strangers, all with very ébig personalities, wasn't tricky enough, this year we're promised that the reality show is going to be extra mischievous, as the contestants place their past, present and future in Big Brother's hands. In

fact, BB is going to start to playing with the very concept of time itself – and not just by making viewers think they'll just tune in for a few minutes to check out the latest intake, only to later realise they've been gripped for two hours. Emma Willis takes charge this evening, as she introduces us to Big Brother's class of 2015, and also lets us have a good look around the house, which has had a Mad Men-inspired 1960s makeover.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Inspector George Gently, BBC1, 8pm**  
Last week, Gently investigated a case that looked like suicide, but turned out to be murder. This week, he does the same thing again although, thankfully, the circumstances are very different. This time, the body is that of Scott Parker, who is found lying on a rubbish pile under the Tyne Bridge, shortly after celebrating his 40th birthday with his best friends Petey and Michael. All Scott had on him was a pawn broker note, a betting slip and the number for Gwendolyn Howard. It turns out he had been



Big Brother: Timebomb Live Launch, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

pawning items under a false name and was in serious debt – but who is Gwendolyn, and does she hold the key to the mystery? Watch out for a guest appearance by Jim Moir, aka Vic Reeves.

**The World's Most Expensive Food, Channel 4, 8pm**  
Like many cities, London is a place of opposites. There are poverty-stricken estates peppered across its expanse, but there are also areas of great wealth too. In fact, it's been estimated that the capital is now home to more billionaires than any other city on the planet. These mega-rich folk may live the kind of lifestyles the rest of us can only dream about, we all have at least one thing in common with them – the need to eat. But what do those with untold millions enjoy? We're guessing that nipping down to their local supermarket isn't on their daily agenda. This two-part programme aims to lift the lid on their habits, as well as offering an insight into the catering companies trying to keep up with their changing appetites.

**THURSDAY**  
**Fraud Squad, ITV, 9pm**  
The documentary series exploring the work of detectives from the City of London Police unit concludes with an insight into an operation to shut down a large-scale bank-cheque fraud empire. Run by a Zimbabwean gang, the scheme involved counterfeiting cheques from thousands of people, government institutions, small businesses, and even a hospice in Scotland. The criminals used an army of 'mules' to cash their fake cheques for a small commission. Funds were then being transferred to Zimbabwe in the form of luxury cars, by a ringleader who viewed his crimes as payback for his native country's colonial grievances against the UK.

**FRIDAY**  
**Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites, BBC2, 8pm**  
New series. The veteran cook shares a selection of her favourite recipes, each inspired by a favourite place. In the first programme, she draws her inspiration from childhood trips to the seaside, preparing goats cheese and shallot tarts with an innovative walnut pastry, considered ideal for a picnic hamper. She moves on to a family favourite – royal crab and cod fishcakes with tomato salsa.

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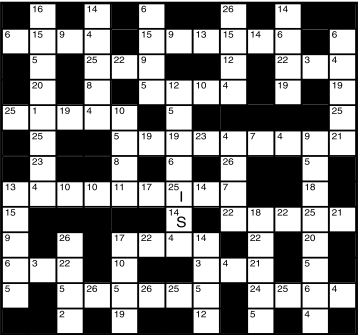
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



SOLUTIONS TO NO. 322:

1	M	S	G	H	T	O	D	N	X	R	A	K	L
2	U	Z	C	J	V	Y	W	I	P	B	F	Q	E

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

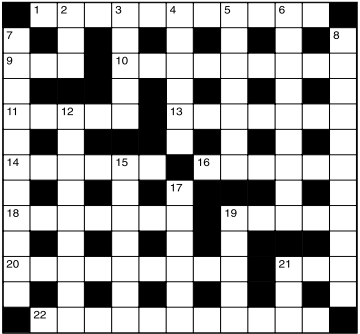
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Not in top form? (6-5)
- 9. Also the last of 20 (3)
- 10. Capital charges are inappropriate here (5-4)
- 11. Took measured steps, perhaps (5)
- 13. Sleep it off when letter comes (7)
- 14. Very small amount of time (6)
- 16. Worse than Cinderella's sisters? (6)
- 18. Steeped as far down as possible (7)
- 19. Sounds a tiny thing, but the power's there! (5)
- 20. Inferior worker is sly (9)
- 21. Nothing indicated as the end-product also (3)
- 22. There are no factors in production of the best anaesthetic, apparently (5,6)

Down

- 2. The last of 12 (3)
- 3. Took steps to ease friction.... (5)
- 4. ....and we'd begun to appear.... (6)
- 5. ....having fun, like the early-rising bird (7)
- 6. Begin with fish - it's breath-taking (9)
- 7. Successful spiritualist avoids extremes (5,6)
- 8. Piercing a rotten pine (11)
- 12. Study offer made by competitor (9)
- 15. It is to be proved that article needs more changes (7)
- 17. This melody takes considerable effort (6)
- 19. She is absolutely crazy before noon! (5)
- 21. Where part of the foot points? (3)



Quick Clues:

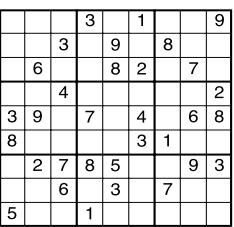
Across

- 1. Dogmatic (11)
- 9. Encountered (3)
- 10. Looker-on (9)
- 11. Adorn (5)
- 13. Watch (7)
- 14. Grand (6)
- 16. Small flag (6)
- 18. Abhors (7)
- 19. Evade (5)
- 20. Uprising (9)
- 21. A fuel (3)
- 22. Eternal (5-6)

Down

- 2. Place (3)
- 3. Disagreeable (5)
- 4. Fairy king (6)
- 5. Performer (7)
- 6. Installed as bishop (9)
- 7. Diplomats (11)
- 8. Unceremonious (4,3,4)
- 12. Respectable (9)
- 15. Determine (7)
- 17. Desire (6)
- 19. Ate dinner (5)
- 21. Fire-arm (3)

Sudoku

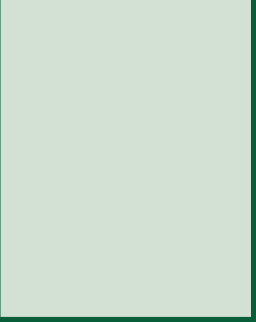


Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	3	1	9	2	5	6	8	4
8	5	6	7	3	4	9	2	1
2	9	4	6	8	1	3	7	5
1	7	5	8	9	3	2	4	6
3	2	9	4	5	6	1	7	8
6	4	8	1	7	2	3	9	5
4	6	3	2	1	8	7	5	9
9	8	2	5	6	7	4	1	3
5	1	7	3	4	9	8	6	2

Thinking space



**Solutions to 317:**  
**Quiz:** 1 Alexander Fleming; 2 Scotland; 3 Mad Dog; 4 Patricia Highsmith; 5 Buzzard; 6 Ghana; 7 Alberto Tomba; 8 Graham Greene; 9 River Medway; 10 Gustav Mahler.  
**Niner:** LIFEBOATS  
**Crossword:** CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Route; 8 Tangles; 9 Affront; 10 Lagos; 12 High street; 15 Treble clef; 18 Louis; 19 Optical; 21 Anemone; 22 Plumb. Down: 1 Ornamental; 2 Ruffs; 3 Nero; 4 Stitch; 5 Unclothe; 6 Flagged; 11 Set of clubs; 13 Illusion; 14 Refuses; 16 Crowded; 17 Scout; 20 Type. QUICK - Across: 7 Canon; 8 Torment; 9 October; 10 Sweet; 12 Asseverate; 15 Accentuate; 18 Tress; 19 Kindred; 21 Unclean; 22 Adieu. Down: 1 Accountant; 2 Unite; 3 Knob; 4 Starve; 5 Prospect; 6 General; 11 Tremendous; 13 Sinister; 14 Screech; 16 Unkind; 17 Train; 20 Neat.

**Codeword:** 1=R, 2=W, 3=H, 4=I, 5=E, 6=D, 7=V, 8=G, 9=K, 10=P, 11=T, 12=X, 13=Y, 14=M, 15=O, 16=C, 17=Q, 18=F, 19=N, 20=A, 21=B, 22=U, 23=Z, 24=L, 25=J, 26=S.

**Sudoku:**

7	9	6	3	5	4	2	8	1
1	3	2	7	9	8	6	4	5
4	5	8	1	2	6	7	9	3
6	4	3	8	1	5	9	2	7
5	7	1	2	6	9	4	3	8
2	8	9	4	7	3	1	5	6
3	1	5	9	4	7	8	6	2
8	2	4	6	3	1	5	7	9
9	6	7	5	8	2	3	1	4

Quiz

- 1. In Greek mythology who was the sister and wife of Zeus?
- 2. When did Queen Victoria succeed to the throne?
- 3. Jomo Kenyatta was prime minister of which country?
- 4. Who wrote the opera Fidelio?
- 5. How many gills are in one pint?
- 6. In which American state is Fort Knox?
- 7. Which element has the symbol A?
- 8. Who wrote the Palliser novels?
- 9. What was the first James Bond film?
- 10. Which Shakespeare play features the character Polonius?

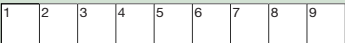
Solutions to no. 322:

**Quiz:** 1 Cosa Nostra; 2 Thomas Gray; 3 Richard Wagner; 4 Delaware; 5 Harold Macmillan; 6 Augustus; 7 14th; 8 Balaclava; 9 A Study in Scarlet; 10 Double bass.  
**Niner:** FORESIGHT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

145 gives a rodent,  
3678 gives a wild animal,  
9243 gives an aquatic mammal.



SEE BEHIND THE GATES AT LYTTELTON GRANGE THIS WEEKEND.

Come along to our OPEN WEEKEND from 10am this Saturday, 9th and Sunday, 10th May and be one of the first to take a tour of our brand new homes which will be available to view. Take this opportunity to walk around the development and choose your new home. Ask our experienced Sales Advisers about the schemes available to help you make the move to Lyttelton Grange.

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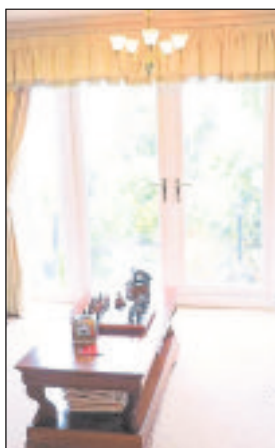
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With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a lounge with fireplace, sitting room with French doors to the garden, study, dining room, kitchen with modern units and black and white splash-back tiling, utility, three bedrooms (one with a fitted wardrobe), a bathroom with a white suite including a free-standing roll top bath and contemporary shower cubicle.

Contact Rodens on 01902 881188 or visit [www.rodensates.com](http://www.rodensates.com) website.



# K.Stuart Swash

## PROPERTY AUCTION

## NEXT SALE

**9th June 2015**

*Entries to date include:*

Houses, Flats

Site with Planning Permission for Residential

Detached House with Outbuildings

Town Centre – Garage / Storage Unit

Area of Land in Residential Location

Modern Workshop Unit in countryside location

Parades of Lock-Up Garages

*Further entries invited*

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# Wakeman

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teamprop.co.uk



**7 CHARNWOOD AVENUE, SEDGLEY O/A £260,000**

- Detached bungalow with three bedrooms
- Enjoying a wide plot at the head of a cul de sac
- L shaped living room comprising living area & dining area
- Tandem garage with further garage, attractive gardens
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**39 SEAGULL BAY DRIVE, COSELEY £215,000**

- Modern detached house with four bedrooms
- Well presented & providing excellent family accommodation
- Situated at the head of a cul de sac & adjoining school playing fields
- Open plan dining kitchen & utility area, conservatory, shower room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**LAND ADJOINING 78 COCHRANE ROAD O/A £250,000**

- HOLLY HALL
- Level rectangular plot
- Outline planning consent for:
- Two pairs of three bedroom semi detached houses and
- A terrace of three, three bedroom houses
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



**4 ELMWOOD RISE £249,950**

- SEDGLEY
- Detached house with four bedrooms
- En suite shower room off bedroom one
- Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room
- Private rear garden with excellent views
- SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C



**28 DEEPPDALE LANE, LOWER GORNAL £230,000**

- Well presented and much improved three bedroom detached bungalow
- Enjoying superb views towards the Shropshire hills and countryside
- Well proportioned and flexible extended accommodation
- Ample off street parking, double garage and landscaped private rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**94 ROBERT STREET £210,000**

- DUDLEY
- Traditional detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Partial gas central heating
- Outline planning permission for detached bungalow
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



**ETTINGSHALL PARK**

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Downstairs shower room
- Larger than average private rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**26 GEORGE ROAD £135,000**

- COSELEY
- Extended semi detached
- Three bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**179 TIPTON ROAD £134,950**

- WOODSETTON
- Spacious Victorian terraced house
- Two large bedrooms
- Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
- Secure parking at rear
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



**8 BEECHFIELD GROVE £134,950**

- COSELEY
- Extended semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- L-shaped kitchen
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**47 SPRINGFIELD GROVE £125,000**

- SEDGLEY
- End terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Large bathroom
- Good sized rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**35 PADARN CLOSE £122,000**

- SEDGLEY
- Modern terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- Ideal first time purchase / investment purchase
- Shower room, car parking space
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



**11 PRITCHETT AVENUE £111,950**

- LANESFIELD
- End of terrace house
- Kitchen extension
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



**108 METROPOLITAN LOFTS £100,000**

- DUDLEY
- First floor duplex apartment
- Mezzanine bedroom
- Secure undercover parking
- Communal lifts
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

Sedgley Office  
01902 885894

Dudley Office  
01384 459999

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# Jon Stanier

01384 778777



*Your satisfaction is our future!*



## KINGSWINFORD CHELFORD CRESCENT

Attractively presented 3 Bed Link Detached provides refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient 'Crescent'. Extended Hall, Downs W.C., spacious 'L' shaped Lounge with Dining Area, Attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 Well proportioned Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom with shower, Side Garage with long Driveway for 2/3 cars and pleasant enclosed Rear Gardens. EPC=TBC

Offers around £179,950



## DUDLEY WOOD DUDLEY WOOD ROAD

Pleasantly situated in this popular, respected address, this spacious 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides mostly GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which although requires certain upgrading and improvement represents an excellent opportunity for the young family. With NO UPWARD CHAIN includes - Hall, spacious Lounge, sep Sitting / Dining room, Kitchen, 3 good sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, long side Garage, pleasant mature long rear Gardens with Westerly aspect and Driveway to the front. EPC=TBC

Offers around £129,950



## BRIERLEY HILL LIMES AVENUE

Attractively presented, stylishly improved 3 Bed Semi-Detached pleasantly situated with large rear gardens in this popular and convenient address and provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family. Hall, Attractive Lounge, Stylishly Refitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, Downs W.C., 3 Bedrooms (originally 2), Sumptuous Refitted Bathroom with shower, Pleasant large level Rear Gardens and Block Paved Driveway for 2 cars. EPC=TBC

Offers around £94,950



## BRIERLEY HILL HENZEL CROFT

This delightfully presented 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accom set over 3 floors in this popular and very convenient cul-de-sac. Hall, Downs W.C., spacious Lounge, super fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 2 Double First Floor Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, large Attic/ Master Bedroom with Dressing Area and EN SUITE Shower Room off, Side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Garden and driveway to front. EPC=D

Offers around £162,500



## BRIERLEY HILL GOLDEN CROSS WAY

This superbly presented, thoroughly redecorated and recarpeted Modern 3 Bed Townhouse provides refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Downs W.C., spacious Lounge, sep Dining Area opening into attractively fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 good Bedrooms (master with SHOWER EN SUITE off), fitted Bathroom, pleasant low maintenance rear Garden and 2 allocated car parking spaces to rear. EPC=D

Offers around £139,950



## BILSTON BATMANSHILL ROAD

RECENTLY RECARPETED AND REDECORATED 1 Pleasantly and conveniently situated in this popular address this attractively styled Modern 3 Bed Semi provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Downs W.C., separate Dining Room, Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with shower, Side Garage, Lawned Rear Gardens and block paved driveway. EPC=D

Offers around £129,950



## TIVIDALE FAIRWAY AVENUE

This attractively presented, lovingly maintained 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address. Hall, attractive Lounge, sep Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, double glazed CONSERVATORY, Laundry/Utility Room with Downs W.C., Useful Store and Workshop off, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms and refitted Shower Room, pleasant rear Garden and neat Driveway to front. EPC=C

Offers around £129,950



## QUARRY BANK BIRCH AVENUE

Pleasantly situated on a 'corner plot' in this popular address, this attractively presented and improved 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family. Porch, Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room/ Living Room, Kitchen, Large useful Outhouse, 3 Very Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Restyled Bathroom, with en-suite, Pleasant Rear Driveway for 2 Cars and Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens with private outlook. EPC=E

Offers around £114,950



## PENSNETT MILTON STREET

Providing well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which should be of interest to the First Time Buyer, young family or INVESTOR (as currently let on an AST at £550pcm ex), this 3 Bedroomed Semi-Detached is very conveniently located for Russells Hall Hospital and amenities and briefly comprises: Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Downs W.C. Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with shower, enclosed rear Garden and driveway parking for 2 cars to the front. EPC=D

Offers around £98,950



## BRIERLEY HILL BANK STREET

Very conveniently situated close to the Town Centre, this 2 Bed End Terrace provides refreshingly spacious REDECORATED GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and double glazed accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or INVESTOR. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Lounge, sep Sitting/Dining Room, Breakfast area opening to Kitchen with built-in oven/hob and fridge/freezer, 2 excellent Bedrooms, large fitted Bathroom with sep shower and enclosed rear Garden/ Yard with southerly facing aspect. EPC=E

Offers around £79,500



## BRIERLEY HILL ADELAIDE STREET

Providing deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer, young family or INVESTOR, this well presented 2 Bed Intermediate Terrace is pleasantly situated in this established and very convenient address and briefly comprises:- Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Large Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, 2 Excellent Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower and enclosed Rear Garden/Yard. EPC=C

Special Offer at £75,000



## NETHERTON SWAN STREET

Spacious 'Victorian' 3 Bed Semi-Detached in Popular and very convenient Location. Gas Central Heating and Part UPVC Double Glazing. Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Large Fitted Breakfast Kitchen with Built in Oven and Hob, Laundry/ Utility Room, 3 Excellent Bedrooms (Master with Shower En-Suite) Superb Refitted Bathroom with Shower and Good Sized Rear Gardens. No Pets/ DSS/Smokers. Deposit £900, Available Immediately. FICS ONLY. EPC=C

£599 PCM EX

## PROPERTY

# Village cottage features include sun trap at back



**THIS delightful two-bedroomed cottage in High Street, Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, is directly opposite the village green in a conservation area.**

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £229,500.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has two bedrooms, a stylish re-fitted shower room and lounge with a multi-fuel stove, tiled floor an open plan dining kitchen area with cream units, dishwasher, oven, hob, fridge/freezer and washer/dryer.

The courtyard garden is decorated with pots and is a lovely place to sit in the sun.

For further information contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01562 888111 or visit [www.leeshaw.com](http://www.leeshaw.com) website.



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**HALESOWEN**  
Talbot Street



Briefly comprising: dining room, lounge, breakfast kitchen with built in oven and hob, cellar, landing with loft access, two bedrooms and a family bathroom. To the rear of the property is a fully enclosed garden laid to lawn and a chipped patio area. This property is offered with NO CHAIN. EPC - E.

£99,950

**COSELEY**  
Greensand Drive



This detached house is so immaculate throughout. The property briefly comprises of porch, lounge, large dining kitchen, conservatory, en-suite to master bedroom, downstairs wc, landscaped gardens and a large driveway to the front. There are shops and schools within walking distance and the property is within easy access to all local motorway network corridors. Viewing is essential to appreciate the quality of accommodation on offer. EPC - ordered

£179,950

**SEDGLEY**  
Sandyfields Road



**GARAGE & GARDEN TO THE REAR!** This is a two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance to Sedgley town centre (although up a steep hill!) with shops close by and good public transport links. Briefly comprising: entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms. No upward chain! EPC - E.

£118,000

**STOURBRIDGE**  
Manor Road



●●LARGE FITTED KITCHEN●● EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM●● A well presented three bedroom mid terrace briefly comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, white bathroom suite, en-suite to the master bedroom, large rear garden and driveway to the front of the property. No upward chain. EPC - Ordered.

£119,950

**RUSSELLS HALL**  
Maitland Road



A LARGE two bedroom semi detached house situated on the popular Russells Hall Estate. Having three extensions to the ground floor, therefore offering generous accommodation. Briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, rear extended reception room, extended kitchen, downstairs wet room with shower and WC, utility area, two DOUBLE bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and driveway to the front. No upward chain. EPC - E

£119,950

**Willenhall**  
Waite Road



A three bedroom detached house located within easy access to all motorway networks and within walking distance to local amenities, schools and public transport. The property briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, driveway to the front and garden to the rear. Viewing is essential to appreciate the size of accommodation on offer. EPC- Ordered.

£124,950

**DUDLEY**  
Myrtle Road



**LARGE DETACHED GARAGE!** Also benefiting from three generous size bedrooms, with a downstairs wet room and upstairs WC, lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, front and rear garden's and off road parking. No upward chain. EPC - D.

£99,950

**Oldbury**  
Morgan Close



No upward chain! Three bedroom modern detached house briefly comprising entrance hall, downstairs wc, lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, en-suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, garage, rear garden and driveway to the front. EPC - D

£150,000

**SEDGLEY**  
Off Lime Road



A spacious, very nicely presented four bedroom detached house located on a private road (shared with only one other property) with a good-sized driveway. Having a fitted kitchen, dining room, lounge, conservatory and a further reception room, two bathrooms and a downstairs wc. The property has great views from the rear along with off road parking off High View (WV14 9PQ). No upward chain. Call now to view EPC - D

£255,000

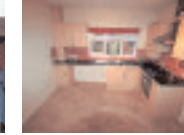
**STOURBRIDGE**  
Churchill Drive



**WOW FACTOR KITCHEN!!!** Beautifully presented and offering generous accommodation this property has a lot to offer! Briefly comprising: entrance hall, lounge, conservatory, modern fitted kitchen, utility room, inner hallway offering storage space, downstairs bathroom, upstairs shower room with WC, PRIVATE rear garden, driveway and side storage. EPC - E.

£149,950

**Colley Gate**  
Colley Lane



●● OFF ROAD PARKING ●● THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS ●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●● A deceptively spacious family home in a convenient location close to transport links, amenities and well respected schools. Briefly comprising large lounge/ Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Area, Downstairs W.C, family bathroom to the first floor, rear garden and off road parking for two cars. EPC - E

£99,950

**NETHERTON**  
Cradley Road



Extended two bedroom semi detached house! This property really is bigger than it looks. Offering no upward chain and briefly comprising lounge, second reception room, extended kitchen/breakfast room, shower room. Beautiful rear garden and a driveway to the front. EPC - E

£109,950

**Dudley**  
Garrick Close



Beautifully presented and located on the Second Floor offering far reaching views. Offering secure entrance with entry phone style access to communal parts. Briefly comprising reception hall, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), white fitted bathroom suite, large living/dining room, modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. Communal grounds, allocated parking. No upward chain! EPC - C.

£109,950

**Bilston**  
Darlaston Lane



A well presented three bedroom mid terraced house located in this popular location. The property briefly comprises of entrance porch, lounge, dining area, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, driveway to the front and good sized garden to the rear. There are local shops, schools and amenities and excellent links to M5/M6 motorway networks. EPC - D

£110,000

**DUDLEY**  
Moncrieffe Close



Purpose Built ground Floor Flat which has been maintained to a high standard by the current owner. Benefiting from security entrance door, allocated parking and set in picturesque grounds whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted bathroom and communal gardens. EPC - C

£75,000

**TIPTON**  
Nightingale Drive



Well presented first floor 1 bed flat in a Cul de sac location. Central heating & double glazing and Part furnished. Available for long term let. Fitted kitchen with white goods and cooker. One double bedroom with fitted wardrobes W/C and shower room. EPC - C.

£475 PCM ● Fees

**DUDLEY**  
Westley Street



A modern three bedroom property. Modern fitted kitchen/dining room, lounge, master bedroom with en-suite and family bathroom. Off road parking and garage. Private rear garden. Must Be Viewed. EPC - C.

£650 PCM ● Fees

**DUDLEY**  
Kent Place



Three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs WC and shower room, house bathroom. EPC - D.

£575 PCM ● Fees

**DUDLEY**  
St James's Road



This apartment is a first floor split level two bed, has central heating and double glazing. There is an open plan, dining/kitchen with lounge area, two good sized bedrooms with an ensuite shower/WC off the main bedroom, with a further WC on the first floor. No DSS, pets considered, available for long term. EPC - B.

£540 PCM ● Fees

**DUDLEY**  
Pages Croft



A modern two bedroom 3rd floor apartment on popular Priory Park development. Having lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite and house bathroom. Double glazing, allocated parking. Available to view now. No DSS, No Pets. EPC - B

£535 PCM ● Fees

**DUDLEY**  
St James's Road



A brand new stunning two bedroom first floor apartment with off road parking. Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner with lounge area. Two good sized bedrooms a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Viewing highly recommended. No DSS, small pets considered. EPC - C.

£510 PCM ● Fees

**DUDLEY**  
Wycherley Way



A modern second floor two bedroom apartment. Briefly comprising fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom and allocated parking. EPC - E.

£450 PCM ● Fees



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**WORDSLEY, Brierley Hill Road**

A VERY INDIVIDUAL, DISTINCTIVE AND SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED DOUBLE FRONTED DORMER BUNGALOW within this established address, offering an exceptionally large THREE BEDROOM layout which, although requiring updating, provides SUPERB POTENTIAL. With a large frontage including a DRIVEWAY with approach to the GARAGE and enjoying a level, southerly facing rear garden which forms a natural sun trap. EPC D



**SEDGLEY, Rowena Gardens, Northway**

ENLARGED gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed detached with; hall, cloaks, 18 ft living/ dining room, sitting room, enlarged kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, car port, garage, extensive parking. Stunning garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



**LOWER GORNAL, Haslingden Crescent**

Extremely well presented, spacious, detached property situated in popular neighbourhood of Lower Gornal benefiting from double glazing, gas central heating and comprises; hall, good sized living room, guest, w.c., breakfast kitchen. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS with en suite to master bedroom, family bathroom. Garage, driveway, and private rear garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

**No upward chain**

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**STOURBRIDGE, Butterfly Mews**

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**QUARRY BANK, Bower Lane**

This DELIGHTFULLY MODERNISED, DETACHED BUNGALOW available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, situated close to LOCAL AMENITIES. Comprising: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Shower Room, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden. EPC C



**QUARRY BANK, 21 Stour Hill**

This TRADITIONAL & CHARMING, DETACHED COTTAGE offers a RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A UNIQUE FAMILY PROPERTY. Comprising: Dining Room, Attractive Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Delightful Conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Rear Gardens. EPC F



**SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive**

Situated within walking distance of Bull Ring; a gas radiator centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached comprising: hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/ dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, block paving, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



**COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill**

Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow in quiet secluded location. Accommodation includes: entrance hallway, living/ dining room, kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, shower room. Driveway & parking, brick garage, garden. SEDGLEY EPC: D.

**Open day**

**Prices from £187,950**

**£179,950**

**£179,950**

**Offers in the region of £160,950**

**Office in the Region of £154,950**



**QUARRY BANK, Marion Close**

This STYLISH, BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME, briefly comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room, Dining Room, Modern Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and Pleasant Garden. EPC D.

**£139,950**



**UPPER GORNAL, Harvest Close**

RARE OPPORTUNITY! A gas centrally heated semi detached bungalow for improvement ENVIABLY SITUATED in cul-de-sac within immediate walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities. Accommodation includes: hallway, living/ dining room, kitchen, inner hallway. Two bedrooms, bathroom. Potential garage space (subject to regulations), sheltered rear garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £135,000**



**WORDSLEY, Crownoakes Drive**

An INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE, IMMACULATE & BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED DUPLEX offering low maintenance living including TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, the Master having an En-Suite Shower Room. Further enhanced by the PRIVATE DRIVEWAY and INTEGRAL GARAGE. EPC C

**£129,950**



**WORDSLEY, New Street**

●● £20,000 PRICE REDUCTION!!! ●● A MOST DISTINCTIVE "PERIOD" DOUBLE FRONTED LINK DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE with 2 Reception Rooms, CONSERVATORY and THREE BEDROOMS. The property enjoys a BEAUTIFUL EXTENSIVE REAR GARDEN with private rear aspect. EPC D

**New price**

**£159,500**



**NETHERTON, Yew Tree Hills**

With CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN DINER and MODERN BATHROOM, this THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a GORGEOUS FIRST BUY or FAMILY HOME with UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING, Porch, Sitting Room and lovely Gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D

**£125,000**



**COSELEY, Pemberton Road**

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Centrally Heated
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Double Garage
- Private rear garden
- Close to Rail/Bus Routes

EPC Rating: E (SEDGLEY OFFICE)

**Offers in the region of £116,450**



**PENSNETT, Heydon Road**

Having an IMPRESSIVE FITTED KITCHEN and a MODERN BATHROOM, this THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a FANTASTIC FIRST TIME BUY or FAMILY HOME. Comprising: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Block paved driveway & Rear Garden. EPC:D

**£114,950**



**COSELEY, Catherine Road, Hurst Hill**

ENLARGED semi detached for improvement in popular/ convenient district, and offering significant potential. Property comprises 28 ft through entrance vestibule, hallway, kitchen, enlarged 18'3" living/ dining room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Integral garage, garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

**PRICE: £104,950**



**LOWER GORNAL, Fiveways Court, Lake Street**

An extremely stylish, comparatively spacious, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR apartment. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge/ dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units and various integrated appliances. Two bedrooms (both with first quality fitted units and principle with spacious shower room en suite), bathroom, allocated parking. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE

**Offers in the Region of £99,950**



**COSELEY, Hospital Lane**

EXTENDED gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement; hall, lounge, dining room, pantry, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking to front and comparatively lengthy garden. Mining History available. EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £99,950**

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**SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road, Northway**

ENVIABLE LOCATION! Backing onto fields and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS a conscientiously maintained gas centrally heated detached with tremendous potential in favoured 'backwater' location. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, through living/dining room, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, generous garage, gardens. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY OFFICE



**WOODSETTON, Westerdale Close (Off Brook Street)**

ENVIABLY SITUATED; gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed detached bungalow (backing on to fields) requiring some sympathetic updating, and briefly comprising; reception hall, two double bedrooms (both with wardrobes), 17 ft living/dining room (with patio doors out to the garden), kitchen. Garage, delightful sheltered garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



**DUDLEY, Dibdale Road**

Beautifully presented, gas centrally heated & double glazed, extended family home which offers spacious accommodation over 3 stunning floors comprising; lounge, kitchen with clerestorey lantern roof light, utility, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS with en suite shower to bedroom two, bathroom, shower room. Garage, driveway to front and fantastic enclosed rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

**Offers in the Region of £209,950**

**Offers in the region of £190,000**

**Offers in the region of £189,950**



**QUARRY BANK, Nottingham Way**

FANTASTIC, BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, LINK DETACHED HOME would make the perfect family home and comprises: Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and Garden. EPC: D

**£149,950**



**COSELEY, Chad Road, Bramford Estate**

An attractive conscientiously maintained freehold gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently situated within walking so many amenities. Accommodation comprises entrance porch, reception hall, pantry, lounge with bay, dining room (with patio doors), ENLARGED 15'5" kitchen. Three bedrooms recently re-appointed/ re-tiled bathroom with contemporary white suite, Garage, garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

**Offers in the Region of £149,950**



**TIPTON, Henlow Close, Foxyards**

COMPREHENSIVELY REFURBISHED! A gas centrally heated (combi), uPVC double glazed and well insulated freehold semi detached bungalow presented almost 'as new' in cul de sac. Recently redecorated accommodation provides entrance hallway, re equipped kitchen, L shape living/dining room, inner hallway, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), reappointed bathroom with white suite, carpet, garage, neat garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the Region of £147,500**



**SWINDON, Falklands Close**

Nestling in a desirable 'cul-de-sac' backing onto countryside, this 2 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE combines a superb location with a SPACIOUS and EXTENDED layout, including a LARGE CONSERVATORY. DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and private rear garden. EPC C

**No upward chain**

**£142,500**



**TIPTON, Wood Street**

Significantly modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached most conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities together with bus & RAIL transport routes comprising; hall, lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, dining room, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Block paved foregarden, delightful garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £140,000**



**DUDLEY, Gregory Drive**

A freehold gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement set in popular convenient cul de sac. Accommodation provides entrance hallway, transverse 18'3" living/dining room (with patio doors), kitchen. Three bedrooms, upgraded bathroom, integral garage, gardens, block paved driveway. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

**Offers in the Region of £125,000**



**LOWER GORNAL, Ladbrook Grove, Straits**

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL - Bungalow requiring modernisation in well regarded area - with hall, two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen. Carport, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £125,000**



**DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights**

A significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated (not tested) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with further potential conveniently situated in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, extended 19'4" second reception room, extended/upgraded 32ft2 breakfast kitchen, lobby, cloakroom, three bedrooms, possible garage space, garden. No upward chain. EPC Rating D

**PRICE: £125,000**



**PENSNETT, Teviot Gardens**

THIS STYLISH AND BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY is delightfully decorated throughout and comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Attractive Sitting Room, Contemporary Kitchen with Dining Area, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, Shower Bathroom, Garage and Rear Garden. EPC E

**New price**

**Offers Around £124,950**



**UPPER GORNAL, Vale Street**

Fairly modern uPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated two bedroom semi detached favourably situated within Upper Gornal. Accommodation comprises Living Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, TWO bedrooms, attractive shower room, parking and gardens, tarmacadam driveway with gravelled boarder. Offers NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the Region of £122,500**



**UPPER GORNAL, North Oval**

This well presented freehold, uPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated semi detached property set in the popular Upper Gornal area benefits from: TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, living room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility area, bathroom, driveway to front and enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY OFFICE

**Offers in the Region of £94,950**



**LOWER GORNAL, Woodfield Road**

A freehold, uPVC single glazed semi detached for improvement in popular/established district. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, lobby, separate toilet, store. Two bedrooms, bathroom, potential off road parking, garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the Region of £87,500**



**LOWER GORNAL, Orchard Grove**

A well presented FIRST FLOOR part PVC double glazed, most conveniently situated within walking distance of the village and many other amenities. Accommodation provides reception hall (with extensive storage), lounge, kitchen, store, two double bedrooms, bathroom, allocated garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the Region of £82,950**



**PENSNETT, High Street**

THIS LARGE, ATTRACTIVELY FURNISHED, FIRST FLOOR, FLAT would make the ideal FIRST TIME BUY or BUY TO LET INVESTMENT. Comprising: Sitting Room, Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, Shower Room, Off Road Parking, CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC D

**£75,000**



**LOWER GORNAL, Five Ways Court (Off Lake Street)**

50% SHARED OWNERSHIP; Stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed end town house in GATED DEVELOPMENT comprising; reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge (with double doors out to garden). Two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Tremendous second floor principal bedroom with sky light & built in wardrobe. Garden, allocated parking, Vendors 50% SHARE for sale at £66,250. EPC: C SEDGLEY

**Vendors 50% Share at £66,250**





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 <b>07/07 Volvo S40 D5 SE 2.4 Diesel Geartronic</b> Automatic 4dr, 67k, Blue, Alloys, Black Leather, Climate Control, CD <b>£4695 / £24 Per Week</b>	 <b>08/08 Nissan Micra 1.2 16v (79bhp) Acenta</b> 3dr, 48k, Grey Metallic, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con <b>£3995 / £19 Per Week</b>
 <b>09/09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXI</b> 5dr, 46k, Black, Alloys, Air Con, CD <b>£4495 / £22 Per Week</b>	 <b>07/57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate</b> 51k, Blue, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con, CD, Climate Pack <b>£3995 / £19 Per Week</b>
 <b>07/57 Renault Kangoo 1.6 16v 95 Expression Automatic</b> 37k, Red, CD, E/Windows, Sliding Side Doors <b>£4495 / £22 Per Week</b>	 <b>07/07 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GL</b> *ONE OWNER* 47k, Burnt Orange, CD Player, E/Windows <b>£3995 / £19 Per Week</b>
 <b>07/07 Ford Fusion 1.6 TDCi Plus</b> Diesel, 48k, Silver, *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* *AVERAGE 62 MPG* Alloys <b>£4495 / £22 Per Week</b>	 <b>06/06 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate</b> 3dr, 59k, Black, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con, Heated Screen, CD <b>£3695 / £20 Per Week</b>
 <b>08/58 Fiat Bravo 1.9 Multijet Diesel Dynamic</b> 58 Reg, 61k, Blue, Alloys, Air Con, CD <b>£4495 / £22 Per Week</b>	 <b>07/57 Fiat Punto 1.2 Dynamic</b> 5dr, 39k, Blue, Alloys, Air Con, CD <b>£3495 / £19 Per Week</b>
 <b>08/58 Fiat Panda 1.4 100hp</b> 39k, *LOW INSURANCE* Black, Alloys, Air Con, CD <b>£4295 / £21 Per Week</b>	 <b>03/03 MG ZS+ 1.8 Stepspeed AUTOMATIC</b> 65k, Green, Alloys, Half Leather, Park Sensors <b>£1695 / £15 Per Week</b>

Finance example: Nissan Micra 1.2 16v (79bhp) Acenta+ 3dr. Cash Price £3995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 Payments of £80.83 (£18.66 per week) Total amount payable £5149.80 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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The hydrogen is then mixed with carbon monoxide, harvested from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and under high pressure and temperatures the two react to create crude.

This can then be refined and mixed with conventional diesel or used on its own. According to test results, it is also more efficient than conventional diesel,

with 70 per cent of its stored energy available.

The fuel is being produced by Sunfire in Dresden in collaboration with Audi, the only downside being that only 160 litres are being produced per day. However there are plans for a larger factory and once viable production levels have been achieved it could sell to the public for less than the current cost of regular diesel fuel.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5), Combined 76.3 (3.7). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 98g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience. Model shown: Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £21,345 On the Road (OTR). \*151M Civic range from £15,975 for 1.4 S Manual non metallic to £25,860 for 1.8 EX+ Auto metallic. Terms and Conditions: New retail 151M Civic registered from 01 April 2015 to 30 June 2015. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. Deposit contribution: £500 Honda deposit contribution on Civic Diesel models purchased through Honda Aspirations. Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Honda Aspirations (PCP): \*5.9% APR Representative example shown based on Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £21,345 total cash price with 37 months 5.9% APR Representative PCP (interest rate per annum 5.68% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. 5 Years Servicing includes: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. 5 Years Servicing is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,430 including VAT, resulting in a £930 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.



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# The ultimate hatchback

By Sharon Walters

**Feast your eyes on the ultimate 308. Peugeot has unveiled a stunning new version of the award-winning compact family hatchback – with a combined 500bhp and four-wheel drive.**

Badged the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid, it has been developed by Peugeot Sport, the brand's in-house engineering and racing division, which last year unveiled the critically acclaimed RCZ R.

The car's plug-in petrol hybrid powertrain pushes the boundaries of sporting prowess in the segment, offering an extraordinary performance. The car is capable of hitting 62mph in four seconds, yet still has low CO2 emissions of 70g/km. "Peugeot Sport's expertise applies an uncompromising approach to meeting targets. With our experience in hybrid vehicles developed with the Peugeot 908, the high-performance hybrid powertrain fitted to the 308 gives a glimpse of the potential for ultra-sports models in the future," said Bruno Famin, director at Peugeot Sport.

The contemporary style and sporting prowess of the 308 – the Car of the Year 2014 – remain clearly visible. However, the 308 R HYbrid also re-imagines design cues explored on the Quartz concept, seen most recently at March's Geneva Motor Show. It has front and rear tracks widened by 80mm and riding on 235/35 R19 tyres with front end styling that is dynamic and imposing. The grille features a chequered pattern which allows air to cool the 500hp powertrain. The side scoops are home to the sequential LED indicators, while the central scoop sports the 308 R HYbrid signature.

Cloaked in an intense blue and developed using fluorescent pigments and glass particles, this colour salutes both the hybrid powertrain and the shade historically reserved for French competition vehicles. On the rear doors, the blue is matched with a matte black, giving a new interpretation of the car's clean lines. At the rear, the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is understated, with a narrow spoiler at the top of the tailgate. The bumper's twin air scoops help keep the battery temperature down by drawing out the hot air, whilst the lower section is embellished with a touch of white emphasising the car's dynamic character.

Peugeot 'i-Cockpit' instrumentation means the interior is familiar, but that's where similarities to the standard 308 end. Four individual sports seats create a dramatic interior which point to the sole aim of Peugeot 308 R HYbrid – world-class performance. The upper fittings and roof lining are slate grey and in sporting tradition, the cabin is finished with touches of red, with attention paid around the dials, steering wheel centre marker and central console.

In a unique twist, the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid uses materials taken from the range, which the brand usually reserves for concept cars. Hence, the dashboard is covered in a fabric produced using a digital weaving technique. This innovative material can be used to produce large and complex parts that are soft to the touch with no need for foam, making for a lighter vehicle.

The compact steering wheel, upholstered in perforated leather and bearing the '308 R HYbrid' logo, allows for precise positioning during cornering. The steering wheel paddles fall immediately to hand, giving the driver finger-tip control over the six-speed gearbox. A head-up display provides all relevant driving information without the need to take your eyes off the road.

Finally, the two buttons on the central console allow the driver to keep a check on the mechanics; the first activates the powerful powertrain, whilst the second gives access to four driving modes.

At the heart of the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is a technical innovation – a plug-in powertrain with four-wheel drive that develops 500hp. The unit combines three sources of power, each capable of moving the vehicle independently of the others. They are a four-cylinder 1.6-litre THP 270 S&S petrol engine, plus two electric motors – each with power of 85kW/115hp – mounted one on each axle. The front one is linked to the six-speed gearbox.

The result is a family hatchback which is capable of supercar performance. The Peugeot 308 R HYbrid can hit 62mph (100km/h) from a standing start in only 4.0 seconds, with top speed electronically limited to 155mph. In spite of this performance, CO2 emissions are just 70g/km.

The all-wheel drive system of the 308 R HYbrid makes for formidable handling, especially when coming out of the corners.

Keep up with the latest news at #PEUGEOT308RHYbrid

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**6 Property**

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2 double bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom with shower, low maintenance gardens, double glazed, central heating.  
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## 8 Motoring

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Diesel, 3 berth. Extremely low mileage. FSH, every extra and much more.

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Excellent condition. 12 months MoT. Low mileage. Full Service History. **£2,400 ono.** 01902 756922 or 07870 959324.

**NISSAN PRIMERA 2.0 Sport** Saloon, Sept 01, black, 48k, Nissan SH. Immaculate car in excellent condition. £1,450. 01562 753457.

**VAUXHALL CORSA** Energy, 5-dr hatchback, AC, alloys, EW, only 9,800 miles, MoT till Sep. £3,150 ono. 01384 230287.

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**AUDI A4 ESTATE 2.4**, petrol, automatic, 51, 6 months MoT. £400 ono. 07926 696037.

**FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA** Metallic black, 11 months MoT, good condition. £550. 07717 295019.

**FORD MONDEO GHIA**, LPG, 2004, 93k, 2.0, gold, very good condition, abs, air, alarm, alloy, MoT, oil, pas, alloys, CD, £1,350 ono. 07921 319244.

**HYUNDAI AMICA 999CC** 02, 70k, MoT, CL, PAS, front electric windows, coloured coded mirrors and bumpers. £675 ono 07565 82225.

**JAGUAR S TYPE**, SE auto, silver, X reg., excellent condition, full leather interior, sat nav, multi CD player, extras, £1,050 ono. 07411 958454.

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Excellent dual purpose vehicle

**£1,195.**

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**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0**, Blue, 04 plate, 7 months MoT, ideal first car. Very good condition. £750 ono. 07791 424718.

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**SCOOTERS & MOTOR CYCLES** Brand new from £599. MOTTO motor dealers. 01902 280225 www.motorsmart-midlands.com

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**WE BUY ALL BIKES** immaculate, as new, barn or garaged, non runners. Cash on collection. Call Peter at All Bikes. 01902 312339.

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**9 Local Information** public & legal notices. LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**10 Personals** personal. LOOKING FOR MY SON Mr A Lewis, last seen in Wolverhampton. Please get in touch. Write to: Box No P19802, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**clutches / brakes / gearboxes** PROFESSIONAL FEMALE 54. Looking for an Educated male to a Degree Level who is attractive, genuine and caring, enjoys quiet nights in, outdoor life and holidays abroad. Early 50's to early 60's, who is caring, honest and respectable. For Friendship or more. Genuine replies only. Box Number P19804, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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## Lake Como, St Moritz and the Bernina Express

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The delights of Lake Como are many and varied. One of the highlights will be a private boat trip and tour of the beautiful 18th century Villa del Balbianello, one of the finest villas surrounding the lake. This is followed by a visit to the exclusive resort of Bellagio, often described as the most beautiful town in Italy.

Enjoy a contrasting day of spectacular scenery and Swiss engineering. Firstly ascend to Tirano to board the Bernina Express, one of the slowest express trains in the world, travelling to the summit at Ospizio Bernina before descending to the chic resort of St Moritz, where there is time for a spot of window shopping or to explore at leisure.

A guided tour of the old town is included at Bergamo in northern Italy. Centred around the Piazza Vecchia, it's main square is a wonderful collection of medieval and Renaissance buildings and the cobbled streets are lined with a wealth of traditional shops.

Nearby Lake Maggiore's most attractive lakeside town Stresa is visited. Take a stroll along its impressive palm-lined promenade and enjoy the lovely views across the lake to the Borromean islands.

The town of Lugano in Switzerland is also a delight to explore. It's centred around the cafe-lined main square – ideal for people watching. Alternatively stroll around the twisting lanes of the old town or network of shops.

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- Return flights
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- Lake cruise to Bellagio
- Guided tour of Bergamo
- Entrance and guided tour of Villa del Balbianello
- Visits to Lake Maggiore, St Moritz and Lugano
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## Yorkshire Cruise and Steam

Three days departing August 14

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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- Tour and wine tasting at the Rosemary Vineyard
- Entrance to Ventnor Botanic Gardens and a cream tea
- Free time in Cowes
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Norfolk Gardens and The Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 3

★ **PRICE FROM £219**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Norfolk Lavender Caley Mill grounds tour followed by a cream tea and lavender scones
- Visit to the Lavender Oil Distillery
- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Entrance to Bressingham Gardens
- Visit to Cambridge
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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## Elvis Exhibition at The O2 London

Two days departing August 22

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- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
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- Visit to Greenwich
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## London Summer Days

Five days departing August 17

★ **PRICE FROM £399.<sup>95</sup>**

- Return coach travel
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Tower Guoman hotel
- Excursion to Windsor
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- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## Jersey

Four to eight days  
Departures June to December

★ **PRICE FROM £295**

- Return flights
- Bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Mayfair or Metropole hotel in St Helier
- Option to upgrade to half-board for a supplement
- Return airport to hotel transfers in Jersey
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Modern Hotels (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

## Buckingham Palace

Day trip departing August 9 and Sept 13

★ **PRICE FROM £59**

- Return coach travel
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace

Two and four-day trips to Buckingham Palace are also available

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Normandy by Eurostar

Five days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £499**

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- Services of a tour manager
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Certain entrance fees payable locally  
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

## Sicily

Eight days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £939**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation in four-star hotels
- Guided tours of Valley of the Temples, Piazza Armerina and Monreale's medieval cathedral
- Visits to Palermo, Taormina, Mount Etna and Siracusa
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## Iceland Reykjavík and the Northern Lights

Four days various departure dates  
November 2015 to March 2016

★ **PRICE FROM £549**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation in a choice of hotels
- City tour of Reykjavik
- Search for the Northern Lights tour\*
- Optional excursions offered
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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

\*Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon and sightings cannot be guaranteed  
Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)





## Yeltz aim to cash in on Albion £50 price rise

HALESOWEN TOWN has slashed season ticket prices – in an attempt to lure disgruntled Albion fans who are facing a hike in the cost of watching their team and hopefully boost their attendances at matches.

The Yeltz, who start their second campaign in the Northern Premier League in August, are offering an early-bird price of £150 – which is down from the original price of £190 for adults – until May 17.

The move comes as Albion revealed it was increasing its own adult season tickets by £50, meaning that they will then range from £399 up to £548.90 for the 2015-16 season.

Yeltz commercial manager Chris Lambert said: "This is not only to reward fans' loyalty this season but also to attract a new ever increasing fan base."

"Albion fans have seen their tickets go up by £50 so we are appealing to them or anyone who want to watch affordable competitive football."

"It's absurd that team are deciding to increase ticket prices with the amount of TV money coming in the Premier League this season," added Mr Lambert.

Yelts senior and student season tickets are prices at £100, while for under-16s it is £50 and for the under-12s are free providing they are with a paying adult or senior.

Match prices at The Grove have also been frozen for next year.

The ticket prices will remain at £10 for adults, £7 for seniors and students, £3 for under-16s, and free for under-12s providing they are attending with a paying adult or senior.

## Tividale make it to final of the Hunt Cup

EVOSTICK Division One side Tividale progressed to the final of the JW Hunt Cup after an entertaining 3-1 win against Midland Football League Premier Division opponents Alvechurch.

Tividale took a 32nd minute lead. Luke Paskin side footed past the keeper.

Alvechurch began to build up some pressure but the hopes were hit when Edwards slid a neat ball through for Foster to roll a shot past the onrushing keeper.

Four minutes later Alvechurch grabbed a lifeline when Luke Dugmore curled home a superb 30 yard shot, giving keeper Paul Evans no chance.

Their renewed belief was hit again as Tividale restored their two goal lead eight minutes from time when through Edwards.

# McAuley deal is a 'no-brainer'

CHRIS Brunt believes offering Gareth McAuley a new deal this summer should be a 'no-brainer' for Albion.

The 35-year-old defender's current contract expires in the summer but Brunt believes his fellow Northern Irishman still has plenty to offer the Baggies.

McAuley endured a frustrating first half to the season but has been a regular fixture in the team under Tony Pulis.

And Brunt said: "Since he got back into the team just before Christmas he's done very well and he's been very consistent. You only have to look back over the last four years and see just how consistent

he has been. "He has probably been our most consistent performer so I think that's a no-brainer."

"I think everybody at the club will want him to stay."

"All the lads want him to stay because he's great to have around the place and he works unbelievably hard at his game for somebody who's getting on a bit."

Brunt also believes no-one should be fooled by McAuley's age, adding: "He's a freak – he's a fit lad for his age and he looks after himself well."

"That's credit to him. He came into the game late and he obviously wants to play at the highest level for as long as he can so fingers crossed he can get

something sorted." McAuley is among players out of contract in the summer and Brunt believes everyone has a point to prove over the final four games, ahead of Pulis' first summer at the Hawthorns, adding: "With the new gaffer here I'm sure he will have a big say in what goes on over the summer," explained the 30-year-old.

"Regardless of what anybody thinks about whether we're safe or not, everybody has still got points to prove over the last few weeks of the season, whether they want to stay or want to leave. It's in everybody's best interests to play out the season to the best of their ability and try to get points for West Brom."

# The Baggies relish taking Utd's scalp

Man Utd 0 Albion 1

TONY Pulis's Hawthorns reign might just have its launchpad.

For so long since his arrival on New Year's Day, Pulis' relationship with Baggies fans has felt like a marriage of convenience.

But victory on one of world football's grandest stages has finally given head coach and supporters a joyful, shared experience over which they can bond.

They might not have gone from uneasy bedfellows to bosom buddies quite yet.

But a second successive Baggies triumph at Old Trafford is a hell of a place to start with building a more genuine love affair. Saturday's win had very little in common with the one in September 2013 – in fact the sense of joy at the final whistle was the only thing that felt the same.

Yet while the win for Steve Clarke's men was more thrilling, more shocking and more glorious, Saturday's success was more important.

### Relegation

Because from a position of feeling safe from relegation when they left for Manchester on Friday afternoon, the Baggies arrived at kick-off time on Saturday evening at Old Trafford with an horrendous sequence of results leaving their battle for survival back on. Thanks to brilliant organisation, an iron will and some tremendous performances, Pulis's men pulled off a terrific triumph to move to their unlikely 40-point target with three games still to play.

Boaz Myhill was the hero with a penalty save from Robin van Persie and more fantastic blocks late on.

But the goalkeeper's heroics merely typified the spirit of his team, who clearly revel in games when they have nothing to lose, even if they struggled to live with the pressure of expectation when they were favourites against QPR and Leicester.

And on 63 minutes a counter-attack brought Albion the opening and only goal. Darren Fletcher burst through the middle and was body-checked by Paddy McNair, earning the United defender a booking.

And Brunt blasted the free-kick towards goal, with a huge deflection off Olsson's calf taking the ball past a helpless De Gea.

## Sako tears himself away from club



A very emotional Bakary Sako of Wolverhampton Wanderers thanks the fans after the final game of the season

BULLISH Kenny Jackett greeted Wolves' play-off miss by vowing the best is to come – but he admitted Bakary Sako will leave.

Wolves' 4-2 win against Millwall saw them finish seventh as Brentford beat Wigan 3-0 to make the top six with Ipswich, while Derby missed out after losing 3-0 against Reading.

But boss Jackett is already looking to next season and declared his

young squad – coupled with the right additions this summer – will only improve.

"We have a high number of players who have their best years ahead of them," said the head coach. "Improvement isn't just in the transfer market, it's from every player as well."

"They all have to come back better next year, whether that's a small percentage or a large one."

We have quite a young group here – Nouha Dicko, Benik Afobe, Dominic Iorfa at right-back, Jack Price came on and Ethan Ebanks-Landell did very well.

"Richard Stearman is 27 but his best years are ahead of him."

"It's my job now to drive them on to be the best they can." Jackett is looking for Wolves to continue the run that saw them pick up 30 points from 15 games.

## Swimmers' campaign gets off to a great start

Mercian Summer League Round 1 Cheslyn Hay

SWIMMERS from Halesowen swimming Club travelled to Cheslyn Hay for the first round of the Mercian Summer League on Saturday looking to pull off a good result.

The team got the 2015 campaign off to a great start and were in strong contention throughout the gala before grabbing the runners-up spot overall on the night.

Stars of the show were double event winners Jacob Bailey in the backstroke and breaststroke and Jakob Baker who competed in the butterfly and breaststroke.

Other individual event winners were Isobelle Cashmore in the breaststroke, Sam Bradley-Wood in the backstroke and Jemima Vaughan-Hawkins in the butterfly.

The relay teams were in fine form with the age 10 and under girls' team which included Libby Hickman, Eleanor Stark and Tegan Turley.

The open men's team included Tristan Bland, George Davies, Nigel Gaskin and Harvey Thompson won both the freestyle and the medley events.

The age 10 and under boys included Adam Ryan, Noah Taylor and Jamie Worton, while the girls 12 and under team included Ruby Hanke, Jessica Jones and Sophie Parsons.

The boys age 14 and under team won the freestyle relays included Robert Jennings, Oliver Jones and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins.

Final point scores were Worcester 236, Halesowen 219, Lichfield 206, Blythe Barracudas 166, Boldmere 146.

## Wrens move into fourth slot in league

Wrens Nest 3 St Martins 2.

WRENS Nest have now moved up to fourth place in West Midlands League Division 1 with a great, hard-fought win over St Martin's who started the match in second place.

St Martins who took the lead from a great header from Sam Litchfield.

Wrens Nest battled for the rest of the first half and deservedly drew level with a superb 25 yard shot from Harrison Day-Bradley.

In the second half St Martins scored after 76 minutes following a great save by Aaron Morris that was followed up by substitute Matt Stone who slotted home from outside the box.

This spurred Wrens Nest on and they gained a deserved equaliser through Stuart Hillman after 83 minutes and again on 87 minutes.

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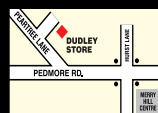
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## Skipper stays philosophical about losing

FAISAL Shahid was philosophical in defeat after seeing his Halesowen side miss out at the weekend.

They went down to Penkridge by three wickets despite setting a useful total of 246-9.

Skipper Shahid said: "Good knocks from Ben Stebbings, when we needed to rebuild after the loss of two early wickets, and then especially Will Barrett and Wes Griffiths when we were looking to set a competitive total got us past 240 when at one stage getting past 200 looked like it would be difficult."

Stebbings, making his first appearance for the club, set about rebuilding the innings after a poor start alongside Hassan Qaumi and the pair had put on 112 for the third wicket when Stebbings fell for 84.

With wickets still in hand Will Barrett (68) and Wes Griffiths (36) set about posting a competitive total and some fine hitting took them past 240 and securing the extra batting point.

Barrett finally fell to a good catch in the deep by Smith, again off Maher. The innings closed with Halesowen posting a very competitive 246-9.

The Halesowen bowlers were sharp out of the blocks and reduced Penkridge to 5-3 with Shahid removing both the openers.

The Chishti brothers, Laeq and Attiq, then put on 113 in good time before Laeq fell to the bowling of Zain Shahid for 54 in only the 26th over.

It was clear Halesowen had to stifle the run rate or bowl out the opposition to win and whilst the wickets continued to fall the runs flowed from Attiq Chishti who finished with an undefeated century and was ably backed up by Szezewyk (28) and Smith (27) to win for Penkridge.

## Welborn ready to defend his title on four-some bill

A four-midable night of boxing at Wolverhampton Civic Hall will see a quartet of Midlands titles contested under one roof on one night, writes Craig Birch.

Those 10-round contests will decide the fate of the area crown's at featherweight, light welter, light middle and super middle on a solitary evening.

The summer blockbuster will take place on Saturday June 6, headlined by Jason Welborn's defence at light middle against Ryan Aston.

Rowley Regis' Welborn, a two-weight Midlands champion and British title challenger, meets Dudley's Ryan Aston in a grudge match.

The established Welborn's puts his belt up against 'Tank', who is back on the rise after putting 10 wins together and is looking for a step up.

Promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson, who has titled the card 'You Asked For It', is hoping to attract a sell-out crowd of 1,700 to the Civic for fight night.

"The main event is one the public have asked for."

For tickets and information call the Civic on 0870 320 7000 or Rowson directly on 07976 283 157.

## Boss Pottinger sets lucky 13 target

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger is setting his side a target of lucky 13 when Mildenhall visit Perry Barr next Wednesday.

The Heathens have kicked off their National League title defence with three consecutive wins to bag 10-points - and Pottinger is hoping his side can make it four in a row to bag three more as they take on their bitter rivals and move to 13-points.

He said: "We've been pleased with how we've started the season, we can't really complain with three wins in our first three meetings."

"There have been plenty of positive signs and

### Speedway

it's been so far so good for us really.

"It's a shame we have a bit of a break before our next meeting, but hopefully we can pick up where we left off against Mildenhall to get three more points on the board."

"The one aspect about the National League which can be frustrating is the gap between fixtures, I'm sure the lads would prefer to be riding more regularly."

And Pottinger admits the controversial league title defeat, when the Heathens lost on a referee-

ing decision in 2012 to the Fen Tigers, will never be forgotten.

He said: "It still angers me now when I look back on that moment, but we more than made up for it with back-to-back league titles after that."

"It should be a good meeting against Mildenhall, they beat Coventry at the weekend and they will come to Birmingham fancying their chances of taking something from us."

"We will all have to be riding well."

Admission prices for Cradley meetings at Perry Barr are £11 adults, £8 concessions and £2 children with the match programme available for £3.

# WOLVES JUST MISS THE BUS

Wolves 4 Millwall 2

**WOLVES did their bit with a win and Derby obliged by continuing their Devon Loch-like collapse only for Brentford to win to secure their place in the play-offs.**

And to their huge credit, Kenny Jackett's side ended another campaign on an upward trend by finishing with back-to-back victories after taking albeit slender hopes into the final day.

The inquest into where Wolves missed out has been under way a couple of weeks and intensified after the final whistle when the league table showed Jackett's side only missed out by five goals as they made history by finishing on the highest number of points not to make the play-offs - 78.

People point to the five straight defeats, in November and the start of December, when they leaked 16 goals.

### Surrender

Then there was the three-goal surrender to draw at Millwall in October, the recent narrow defeats at Birmingham and Middlesbrough, and the draw at home to Ipswich. Dave Edwards added into the mix the early defeat at Rotherham after dominating, and the 3-3 draw at Reading after conceding in injury time.

Over a 46-game season there will be plenty of areas where they could have done better, and, as the dust settles on this campaign, there is time for cold analysis.

The Championship is a hugely demanding, unforgiving, uncompromising and athletic league in which Wolves to their credit have evolved considerably over the season.

If Saturday's game was to be Sako's last in gold and black, then he went out in style and signed off with a bang with plenty of reminders of what we're going to miss.

His mazy run set up Dicko to put Wolves ahead with a shot on the half turn after 20 minutes, five minutes after the clean-through Rajiv Van La Parra had been superbly denied by David Forde.

And although he wasn't involved when Dicko



Nouha Dicko of Wolverhampton Wanderers scores a goal to make it 1-0

then cut inside and set himself up to lash home the second 11 minutes after the break, he was instrumental in the final two goals.

First Forde could only parry his free-kick into the path of Ebanks-Landell to steer home to make it 3-1 with 20 minutes left.

Then on the stroke of the end normal time, he curled one in himself after a lovely dummy turning onto Afobe's quickly-taken corner.

It was a five-star performance from a top-class player who no-one should begrudge his chance in the Premier League after sticking with Wolves for two seasons longer than he may have done.

To their credit, relegated Millwall remained

competitive with an energetic if experimental side containing three academy graduates.

Aiden O'Brien prodded home to halve the deficit on 58 after Tomasz Kuszczak couldn't hold Jimmy Abdou's free-kick then Jamie Philpot slid in at the far post to make it 3-2 eight minutes from time, not long after Edwards missed his kick eight yards out from Iorfa's pull-back.

Wolves knew by then they weren't going to make up the gap.

But true to form in a season of hope, they kept going.

And they will reap their reward - hopefully by going up next season.

## O'Donnell is top dog at awards bash

GOALKEEPER Richard O'Donnell was the big winner at Walsall's end of season awards, as he was named player of the season.

And the Saddlers No.1 made it a double triumph, also scooping the players' player of the year prize during a glittering ceremony at the Banks's Stadium On Sunday.

In the main award, which is voted for by fans, the 26-year-old claimed a whopping 69 per cent of the vote, with top scorer Tom Bradshaw a distant second after gaining 12.3 per cent. O'Donnell - who joined the club as a free agent in 2013 - has enjoyed a standout campaign, keeping 21 clean sheets in all competitions.

But while last night was one of celebration, his future at the Banks's remains in serious doubt as he is yet to confirm whether he will accept the Saddlers offer of a new two-year contract.

Rico Henry claimed the young player of the year prize after an impressive breakthrough campaign, while Ben Purkiss was named community player of the season for the second year running.

Jordan Cook's thunderbolt in December's 3-1 win over Barnsley won goal of the season, while youth team skipper, Kyle Rowley walked away with apprentice of the season.

There was also recognition for Graeme Brookes, who successfully completed the challenge to walk from Walsall to Wembley ahead of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final.

He was named fan of the season and veteran kit man, Tom Bradley, was given a long service award.

A special lifetime achievement award was also presented to former boss Chris Nicholl.

## FA defends Cup ticketing scheme

THE FA has defended the allocation of FA Cup Final tickets after complaints from Villa and Arsenal fans.

Both clubs will receive 25,000 tickets for the May 30 showpiece at Wembley's 90,000-seater stadium.

The FA stressed it is important to reward members and volunteers of the 'football family,' while stating 25,000 is the maximum number of tickets offered to any club since the first final at the new Wembley in 2007. A further 17,000 tickets are on offer to members of Club Wembley, which is effectively a season ticket for the national stadium.

More than 32,000 Villa fans watched their team beat Liverpool 2-1 in the semi-final at Wembley.

★★★

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